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No 62,159

Portfolio
£24,000 to be won
Times Portfolio competition prizes total £24,000, the weekly prize of £20,000 plus £4,000 because no one won yesterday's daily prize. Portfolio list page 14, weekly prizes, information service, back page.

British ferry holed in collision
The British ferry Norland, lying badly, was taken in tow near Rotterdam yesterday after a 15-foot hole was gashed in her starboard side.
The ferry was on a regular run from Rotterdam to Hull. The ship, which was used in the Falklands operation, was holed near the entrance to the River Maas. She put out a mayday call after the collision.
Three tug boats towed the damaged ferry in tow and headed slowly back towards Rotterdam where she docked.
The 13,000-ton Norland had been in collision with a German ship, the Sabina.
The incident occurred at 6pm. The Norland should have been at Hull at about 3 am today.
The Norland radioed for helicopter assistance.

Juventus fans' rescuer named
A Liverpool football supporter who was seen on television pulling Juventus fans to safety in the Brussels stadium disaster was identified yesterday as John Welsh, aged 27, a barman.
Back from dead, page 9

Three convicted of £6m raid
Three men were convicted of involvement in a £6 million robbery in 1983. They will be sentenced on Monday after a trial believed to have cost £1 million.
Page 3

Mengele doubts
German letters and documents that led to the reported remains of Josef Mengele appear suspicious evidence to some.
Page 6

Paper criticized
A newspaper report that the Bradford football fire was started by a smoke bomb wasted police time, the public inquiry was told.
Page 3

Abbeystead writ
Solicitors acting for 29 people have issued a writ against the operators, designers and constructors of Abbeystead water plant in Lancashire where an explosion killed 16 people and injured 30.
Page 3

Nkomo setback
Mr Joshua Nkomo, the Zimbabwe opposition leader, failed in a last-ditch High Court case to have the country's general elections postponed.
Page 5

Gas sale
The Government has begun laying the groundwork for the sale of British Gas. The sale next year is expected to raise about £8 billion.
Page 11

Double chance
Henry Cecil and Steve Cauthen will become only the fourth post-war combination to win both Epsom classics in the same year if Oh So Sharp wins today's Oaks.
Page 24

The Times
We regret that technical difficulties on the presses reduced the supply of copies of yesterday's Times in some parts of the country.

Leader page 9
Letters: On higher education from Professor T M F Smith and Dr I Diamond; football violence from Mr M Rose and others.
Leading articles: Salt 2; The French left; Immigration.
Obituary, page 10
Mr Geoffrey Redgate, Oswald Blackstone.

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BR chiefs tell unions pay £200,000 or be sued

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

British Rail yesterday gave its two main unions seven days in which to agree to pay £200,000 compensation for losses caused by a one-day strike in support of striking miners or face being sued.
The railways thus became the first organization to seek damages under last year's Trade Union Act, which specifies that unions calling industrial action without first holding a ballot lose immunity from civil action.
British Rail's move, contained in a letter delivered by hand to the National Union of Railwaymen (NUR) and the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (ASLEF), is expected to be the forerunner of a similar claim against the NUR for losses resulting from a later one-day strike in Scotland last April.

The unions, reacting angrily, accused the board of being "deliberately provocative" so close to their annual conferences. ASLEF delegates assembled next Tuesday and the NUR meets in Scotland at the end of the month.
Executives agreed privately last night that the demand for damages was timed to coincide with the conference season, with the hope of producing a definitive response.

There is some doubt whether the unions will meet the management's timetable. The ASLEF conference will probably discuss the letter on Wednesday and the NUR executive will also plan its strategy next week, but both said last night that they would not co-operate with productivity moves while the threat of legal action remained.
A meeting of the two unions under the umbrella of the Rail Federation has been fixed for June 20 to agree a joint plan, but regulatory disruption of rail services appears unlikely because if the unions refuse to admit liability for the damages a lengthy period of legal tussles would ensue.
The letter to the unions from

Soviet lorry rams British patrol

From Frank Johnson, Bonn

A British Army vehicle on authorized patrol in East Germany was chased through the countryside by a small Soviet Army lorry on Tuesday, rammed twice and its three-man crew detained at gunpoint for several hours, it was learnt yesterday.
At one point the Russians threw bricks and at least one shovel at the British vehicle, confirming the belief of British sources in Berlin that Russian hooliganism played a part in the incident.
But coming 10 weeks after the shooting to death of the American Major Arthur Nicholson on the American equivalent

of one of these patrols, the affair could have resulted in a tragedy. It was therefore being taken seriously by British military authorities in Berlin.
A spokesman said: "A strong protest has been made to the Russians on the military network. There are several questions still to be answered about the incident."
The patrol, like that of Major Nicholson, was on a routine mission allowed under four-power agreements made just after the war under which the Russians are also allowed to enter West Germany.
The incident happened at Cottbus, about 60 miles south-east of Berlin at 7.30am British sources said. The patrol's Mercedes cross-country vehicle was parked in a country lane at least three miles from any restricted Warsaw Pact military area.
A jeep from a passing Russian convoy moved towards the British who moved off. The Russians chased them and rammed their vehicle twice "very hard". Then they threw bricks and the shovel.
Two tyres were ripped in the incident.

Hong Kong bank rescued

The Hong Kong Government bailed out one of the colony's banks yesterday in an effort to restore calm to the local financial community.
The decision to rescue Overseas Trust Bank, which failed on Thursday, as share prices on the Hong Kong market suffered

their sharpest fall for 3½ years. Sir John Bremridge, the colony's financial secretary, said the failure could involve hundreds of millions of Hong Kong dollars and the rescue could cost the Government HK\$2 billion (£205 million).
Details, page 11

Details, page 11



The father of America's Hydrogen bomb, Dr Edward Teller, aged 77, who spoke last night at the Oxford Union.
He was due to face three Russians across the chamber floor, one of whom was Mr George Arbatov, the head of the United States-Canada Studies Institute in Moscow. But at the last minute they withdrew. So there was a question and answer session instead.

Cortonwood colliery to close

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

The National Coal Board yesterday announced plans to cut the workforce in the south Yorkshire coalfield by more than 20 per cent, including the shutdown of Cortonwood colliery, the threatened closure of which started the year-long miners' strike.
Two pits will close by the end of the year causing, together with other reorganizations in the coalfield, the loss of 2,800 jobs. The board, when announcing its plans to the three mining unions, said the closures would go through either the industry's present colliery review procedure or the new appeals process.
The other colliery which, like Cortonwood, is planned to shut by the end of the year, is Brookhouse, near Beighton, Sheffield. There will be a reorganization at Dinnington pit and cuts in manpower at Wath and Manners collieries.

Mr Jack Taylor, Yorkshire area president of the National Union of Mineworkers, said after receiving details of the closure plans: "We knew there was going to be some price for not succeeding in the dispute. We have got to defend this industry and we shall do that through the branches, area and national level of the union."
Yesterday's announcement was the last concerning the board's four Yorkshire areas, bringing to 10,000 the total job losses. Over the past three weeks the board has announced reductions in the Barnsley area of more than 3,000, 2,500 in Doncaster and 1,000 losses in north Yorkshire.
Mr Harold Taylor, the board's south Yorkshire director, repeated the case for the closure of Cortonwood: there is no inland market for its coal and it has lost £11 million in five years up to March last year.

Bulow jury out

The jury retired to consider its verdict after six weeks of evidence in the Providence, Rhode Island, retrial of Claus Von Bulow for the attempted murder of his wife.

Why country folk stay home from church

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

The Church of England is in the same plight in the countryside as it is in inner city areas through falling numbers, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, stated in a report published yesterday. He described a report on the rural church's statistical demise as "devastating".
The alienation of young people from parish life in the countryside is as serious as the alienation of the working class from the church in Victorian times, Dr Runcie continued.
The report, by Dr Leslie Francis, research officer of the

unappealing, with poor singing and boring sermons.
At a press conference to launch the report yesterday, the bishop of Lichfield, the Rt Rev Keith Sutton, said he had had responsibility both for urban Battersea and for rural Shropshire.
The problems are identified by the report as falling clergy numbers and congregation sizes, leading to the amalgamation of parishes and consequent further decline; clergy men having to look after three or more parishes single-handed; elderly congregations with little or no activity directed at young people; and a lack of clear strategy by the church in rural areas. Dr Francis said

24 UN soldiers kidnapped in south Lebanon

From Richard Dowden, Beirut

Twenty-four Finnish soldiers from the UN peace-keeping force in South Lebanon were kidnapped yesterday and threatened with death by Israeli-backed militias.

In another incident, the Austrian ambassador to Lebanon and the director of the UN Works and Relief Agency, were forced at gunpoint to enter a Palestinian camp in Beirut to secure the release of Muslim militia prisoners. The two men were later released unharmed. Diplomatic moves were under way last night to free the soldiers.

In the village of Qantar, six miles north of the Israeli border, five Finns from the UN Interim Force in Lebanon, were captured by the "South Lebanon Army" and another 19 were seized later at a checkpoint at Adaisseh, about four miles south-east of Qantar.

The men were kidnapped after 11 members of the SLA were captured in a pre-dawn raid by Shia Amal fighters. The SLA accused the Finns of assisting Amal.

"They said they wanted to kill them, every hour until all their men were returned," said Mr Timur Goksel, the UNIFIL spokesman, "but we don't have their men." UNIFIL troops had encircled both areas, and he had spoken to both groups of men and they were unharmed. "We have moved some reinforcements into the area," he added.

Opponents talk out Powell embryo Bill

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

The last faint hope of resurrection for Mr Enoch Powell's Bill to prevent the use of a human embryo for research or experimentation proved illusory in the Commons yesterday when his further progress was prevented by the determined hostility of an all-party minority.
Mr Powell, who in February won a clear majority by 238 votes to 66 for the second reading of his Bill, the Unborn Children (Protection) Bill, acknowledged afterwards that it was dead.

He was scathing about the unwillingness of the Bill's opponents to allow further debate.
"This is Wilberforce memorial day," he said. "There are to be no more anti-slavery Bills. No opportunity for private members to pass legislation against strong opposition. That is to be our lot."
Mr Powell said that the Government would be unable to pass its own legislation incorporating the recommendation of the Warnock committee that research on embryos should be permitted up to 14 days after fertilization in vitro. The Bill wanted only time.

Accident unit forced to shut

One of the South's busiest traffic accident hospitals was forced to close its emergency unit last night for the second night running because it was unable to find a single standby doctor to cover for staff shortages.

The Luton and Dunstable Hospital, Bedfordshire, located 200 yards from Junction 11 on the M1, shut its accident and emergency unit at midnight on Tuesday night.
Casualties arriving at the hospital were faced with journeys of between 12 and 20 miles to reach hospitals in St Albans, Bedford and Milton Keynes.

Administrators may have to close the unit again from Monday evening because staff are still on holiday or on study leave.
Doctors are already working 12-hour shifts to cover that it was the first time they had been forced to close the unit. "We were unable to find a locum doctor from the local agencies and we could not leave it to the nurses, so we shut the unit."

Normally, only one doctor is required to take charge of the unit. The Royal Berkshire Hospital at Reading was also unable to find one extra doctor because of sickness on Monday and Tuesday this week. Two doctors normally cover the accident unit in 12-hour shifts but one was left in charge for a 24-hour shift.
Last night Bedfordshire Ambulance Service said: "If an accident were to occur in our area of the M1 tonight we would take the casualties to either St Albans City or Milton Keynes hospitals."
"It would add between five and ten minutes to the journey but we have been told if it is a case of life or death we can still take them to Luton and Dunstable."

THE TIMES
1785-1985



Baseball's home base
Britons pitch in to the American game
Page 29

Win The Times chess trophy
Nominate your game of the year
Page 34

Jumbo crossword
Solution and winners
Page 34



Travelling light on your wallet
Budget France; fare deals; B and B in the US of A
Page 31

The man with two orchestras
Andre Previn takes London and LA under his baton
Page 38



Man of property
Peter Palumbo reflects on a towering disappointment

Spitting images
The golden age of caricature

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By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

The loss of life in a nuclear attack would be very high, but the documents say millions could be left alive, facing

By John Young, Agricultural Correspondent

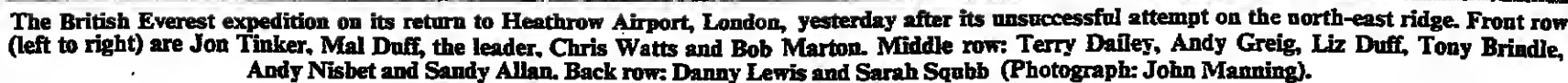
Civil Defence and the Farmer
(Stationery Office, £1.50).

A UCW conference recently

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By Rupert Morris

Such sentiments have been expressed before in the *Morning*

By Lucy Hodges
Education correspondent

Educational Institute of Scotland agreed to organize an early ballot of secondary school teachers on boycotting examinations next year.

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

on a much less regulated basis than the present network and all potential rivals for radio advertising revenue.

John Livingstone, aged 23; of

home in Rodmarton, Gloucestershire, when she was attacked and robbed of £30.

98,724 to 61,636 in a card vote against the merger.

By Christopher Warman
Property Correspondent

In spite of likely opposition, the Government had been moving towards acceptance of

Figures are for Great Britain.

Under the Government's proposals, landlords and tenants would have been free to settle the level of rent for

The leading record now

In their damages claim, Gallup and the BPI are alleging conspiracy.

By George Hill

Japanese and French interests are involved in the project, and are seeking support from their own governments.

There were no grounds for granting an order to Mr

cutting overtime, among other things. At the moment there are

The Times overseas selling prices

Austria Sch 25:	Belgium Frs 60:	Canada
£2.75:	Denmark Dkr 5.00:	Finland Mkks 9.00:
France Frs 2.00:	Germany DM 3.50:	Greece Dr 120:
Italy Lira 1.200:	Netherlands Gld 3.50:	Portugal Esc 200:
Spain Ptas 1.000:	Sweden Skr 1.00:	Switzerland Frs 3.00:
United Kingdom £1.00:	USA \$1.75:	Yugoslavia Dn 100.00:

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 Mon to Sat: 9.30 to 6.30

By Julian Haviland
Political Editor

"Democracy can have no frontiers; it needs to advance into our working lives," he said. But socialists could not "rigidly advocate any single form of industrial organization on ownership".

ld-style Morrisonian nationalisation but should examine workers' or consumers' co-operatives.

not blamed

Hill

project. Mr. Geoffrey Pathé, minister of State for Industry, said yesterday during a visit to Japan (Our Industrial Correspondent writes from Tokyo).

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Times overseas selling prices
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 Frs 8.00; Germany DM 4.50;
 2 frs 120; Holland Gld 3.50; Irish
 bank 40p; Italy L 240; Luxembourg Lf
 400; Mexico Esc 150; Morocco Dir 100;
 2 frs 9.00; Pakistan Pes 15; Portugal
 50; Singapore S\$ 50; Spain Pes 170;
 2 frs 9.00; Switzerland Sfrs 3.00;
 2 frs 10.00; USA \$1.75; Yugoslavia

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Jury finds three guilty of part in £6m City raid on Security Express

Three men will be sentenced on Monday for their part in Britain's biggest cash robbery, the theft of £6 million from Security Express headquarters in the City on Easter Monday in 1983.

After retiring for 16 hours, a jury at the Central Criminal Court yesterday convicted Terence Perkins, aged 37, and John Knight, aged 50, of involvement in the raid, described as one of the crimes of the century.

They will be sentenced on Monday by Judge Richard Lowry, QC, when they will be joined in the dock by John Horsley, aged 43, who pleaded guilty to robbery at the start of the case last February.

The trial, which lasted 66 days, is estimated to have cost £1 million. Police investigations, including the expenses for a squad to spend a month in Spain, and other costs add another £1 million to the bill.

Of the £6 million haul, £4 million is still missing, believed to have been invested abroad. The assets in England of the guilty men, including their substantial homes have been frozen.

James Knight, aged 59, and William Hickson, aged 42, will also be sentenced on Monday. They were convicted of receiving some of the stolen cash. John and James Knight are former brothers-in-law of Barbara Windsor, the *Carry On* actress, whose former husband, Ronald Knight, is living in Spain.

The jury of seven men and five women was discharged from giving a robbery verdict in Hickson's case after convicting him of an alternative count of receiving.

Two other defendants were found not guilty of receiving money and discharged. They were Mrs Jacqueline Perkins, aged 36, of Oak Avenue, Enfield, and Mr Robert Youg,

aged 47, a chartered accountant, of Gobions Way, Little Heath, Potters Bar, Hertfordshire.

As she left the dock Mrs Perkins kissed her husband Terence Perkins and whispered: "Good luck."

The judge directed that the jury should not be called to try another criminal case for 25 years because of their "ordeal".

Usually he did not invite them to return to court on Monday to hear sentences passed. From the outset of the case the jurors have been given 24-hour protection by armed detectives.

Perkins, a property developer, John Knight, a garage owner, of High Trees, Gustard Wood, Wexhamstead, Hertfordshire, and Hickson, a market trader, of Chequer Street, Holborn, London, all pleaded not guilty to robbery and receiving charges.

James Knight, a restaurateur, of The Limes, Wood Lane, Stanmore, Middlesex, denied receiving.

During the trial Miss Windsor gave evidence for the defence. The spectacular robbery was staged by 15 men and was carried out with daring, cunning and military-style precision, the court was told.

The gang, carrying pistols and sawn-off shotguns, struck when one guard was on duty at Security Express. When other guards arrived they were all trussed up, blindfolded and gagged. One was threatened with being soaked with petrol and turned into a "human torch" to force him to give information about the vault.

The gang were inside the offices of Security Express for five hours before driving away with £6 million.

The court was told that the convicted men spent freely, spent lavishly and "stashed" hundreds of thousands of

pounds in bank and building society accounts.

They were eventually "be-trayed" to Scotland Yard by a "supergrass", Allen Opola, whose home in north London had been used as a counting house. He has been paroled from a sentence of three years and three months, imposed for receiving stolen cash. He was the prosecution's chief witness in the trial and is now said to be living in fear at a secret address after threats to his life.

The robbery involved months of planning and £100,000 "expenses", but the gang almost called it off at the eleventh hour.

Criminal experts met week-after-week at an east London public house, The Fox, and at a scrap metal yard nearby.

Unsuspecting customers wandering into The Fox were thrown out by Clifford Saxe, the tough landlord, who now lives in Spain.

But shortly before the raid drug squad detectives from outside London burst into the scrapyard in Ridley Road, Dalston, run by James Knight. They searched but found no drugs.

An emergency meeting was convened and the gang decided to "carry on regardless". Steel shuttered doors, every conceivable alarm and surveillance device and closed circuit television gave Security Express an air of impenetrability. But they knew of an Achilles heel: staff had orders never to resist if lives were threatened.

After the raid 150 Central robbery squad detectives hunted the culprits. Finally a tip-off led to Allen Opola, who described how his Southgate house, had been the "hanging headquarters".

After the count he gave everyone their share in a suitcase. John Knight walked off with £400,000.



Viktoria Mullova, the Soviet violinist who is to play at the Barbican tonight, rehearsing yesterday with the 1723 Stradivarius bought for her for £286,000 at Sotheby's, London, in April (Photograph: Graeme Cookson).

Report on timber houses is attacked

By Christopher Warman
Property Correspondent

The conclusions of a government report on timber-frame housing which claims that it contains "potentially disastrous" flaws were challenged yesterday by the Timber and Brick Homes Information Council, which represents the timber-frame sector of building.

The council said that newspaper reports of the conclusions gave a "totally false impression" of the overall performance and durability of timber-frame housing by isolating one sentence from an interim report.

The report by the Government's Building Research Establishment for the Department of the Environment records "several significant faults" to which it alerts the industry. "Faults are defined as departures from good practice and do not necessarily lead to failures in service; however, all faults have that potential."

Most of the faults identified by the establishment relate to strength and stability, weather-tightness, fire and durability. They include inadequate clearance for shrinkage in frames, ineffective measures to prevent passage of fire through separating walls and within cavities, ineffective precautions against entry of water and water vapour, and potential short-comings, some serious, in structural performance.

The report also states that too much reliance is placed on site work in certain practices of timber-frame construction. Timber-frame construction, widely used in the United States, Canada and Scandinavia, took an increasing share of the market in Britain, rising to almost 25 per cent in 1982 and 1983.

In England, it is now down to 8 per cent or 9 per cent, partly because of adverse publicity of faults in the system highlighted in Granada TV's *World in Action* programme in 1983. In Scotland, where the method has been accepted more confidently, it has about 30 per cent of the market.

The Timber and Brick Homes Information Council said that it was a technical report in which statements taken out of context could be misunderstood by a lay audience. "The fact remains that the types of faults reported by the establishment do represent deviations from good practice. We welcome the recent measures made by the House Builders' Federation and by the National House-building Council to upgrade performance on-site," Mr David Scott, the council's technical director, said.

Rate of house price rises falls to 8.8%

The annual level of house price increases fell in May to 8.8 per cent from 9.9 per cent in April, according to the Halifax house price index published yesterday. The index, issued by the Halifax Building Society, shows that in the latest three-month period house prices generally rose by 3.4 per cent.

When Trooper Lemoore went over to Miss Baldwin, he saw she was severely injured and rode off for help. Recording a verdict of misadventure, the coroner said that he did not think that anybody was to blame for the accident.

There were gasps in court when Mr Littman said the estimated amount of allegedly wrongly diverted royalties was £1 million. Mr James laughed aloud.

The hearing continues on Monday.

Daily Star's bomb report 'wasted police time'

From Peter Davenport
Bradford

Police officers investigating the cause of the Bradford football ground fire wasted valuable time in following up a newspaper report that it was started by a smoke bomb thrown by football hooligans, the public inquiry into the disaster was told yesterday.

Because of the allegations the police staged an elaborate reconstruction of events immediately before the outbreak in G-block of the grandstand at the Valley Parade ground.

Det Supt Kevin Cooper, the officer in charge of the investigation, told Mr Justice Popplewell yesterday, the third day of the hearing, that the reconstruction was an "unpleasant experience" for those survivors involved. "It was something we could well have done without," he said.

The report was the main front page article in the *Daily Star* newspaper on May 13, two days after the fire which caused 55 deaths.

The headline said: "I saw killer smoke bomb". There followed a report by Mr Ian Trueman, a *Daily Star* journalist who had been working at the match, in which he wrote: "I saw everything, every horrifying scene. I saw a smoke bomb thrown by hooligans from a stand adjoining the main building."

However, the inquiry has been told that in spite of intensive police investigations and a painstaking forensic science examination of the remains of the stand, there was no evidence that the fire had been started deliberately or that anything was thrown into the grandstand.

Mr Andrew Collins, QC, counsel for the inquiry, has said that the most likely cause was a cigarette end dropped through a crack in wooden floorboards of the stand, which set light to rubbish accumulated for years in a space underneath.

Under questioning by Mr Collins yesterday, Mr Trueman agreed that he had not seen anything being thrown but after noticing the trail of smoke in the stand had assumed it to have been caused by a smoke bomb. He added that he stood by his story.

Mr Cooper, who was in the crowd during the match, said that at first he had thought it may have been a smoke bomb. But only 14 people from the crowd estimated at more than 10,000 had claimed to have seen any kind of missile thrown. After questioning by detectives only two had persisted in their allegations.

"My conclusion," he said, "is that in the main they were inaccurate and mistaken."

● A three-game tour of Scotland by Bradford City Football Club to raise funds for the disaster appeal has been cancelled, a victim of FIFA's blanket ban on English clubs playing teams from other nations (the Press Association reports).

● A police football team from Medway, Kent, will not be taking part in an international five-a-side tournament in Belgium this weekend as planned. The Belgian police said yesterday that the Brussels government did not wish the Kent police to take part. They will, however, attend as spectators as a gesture of good will.

● The Bishop of Liverpool, the Right Rev David Sheppard, and the city's Roman Catholic Archbishop, Mgr Derek Worlock, are to join a city council good will delegation to Turin, the home town of Juventus, on Monday week in an attempt at reconciliation after the European Cup Final football disaster.

Fans return, page 4
Letters, page 9

Diana Dors leaves £207,939

Diana Dors, the actress, and her actor husband Alao Lake have left their property to two of three sons in their will published yesterday.

Miss Dors, who died of cancer in May last year, left £207,939 net and Lake, who shot himself five months later because he could not live without her, left £132,702 net. Both figures are before tax is paid.

The sole beneficiaries are the couple's sons, Jason Lake, aged 16, and Gary Dors, aged 24, the son of Miss Dors' second marriage to Dickie Dawson, the comedian. Gary's brother Mark, aged 26, who has lived in the United States since his parents were divorced in 1967, is left nothing.

Dawson was given custody of the two children and they stayed with him in Hollywood while Miss Dors returned to Britain. Ten years later Gary stayed with the Lakes in England, but his brother did not return to Britain and rarely spoke to his mother.

A family friend said yesterday: "To the divorce they thought Diana had walked away and Mark never forgave her and has ever kept in touch."

Car insurer puts up rate by 10%

Guardian Royal Exchange, one of the largest car insurers in the United Kingdom, is increasing its motor premium rates for the second time this year. The increases, an average of 10 per cent from July, comes after a 6 per cent rise in January.

The company says the increases are a result of a 20 per cent increase in the number of claims during the past few months, as well as an increase in the value of the claims. The number of drivers involved in accidents has increased from one in six to one in five.

£100m Olympic stadium planned

Birmingham City Council announced yesterday that it will spend about £100 million on building Britain's second-largest sports arena if its request to stage the 1992 Olympic Games is granted.

The 70,000-seat "Superbowl" would be built beside the National Exhibition Centre. Once the Olympics were over, 20,000 seats would be removed and a roof fitted to create an all-purpose arena which would be the largest covered stadium in Britain.

Actor dies
Gordon Rollings, the actor, who appeared in advertisements for John Smith's Yorkshire Bitter, died yesterday, aged 58 after a "courageous battle" against cancer, his agent said.

Family rescued
A Dutch family of six was rescued by Waltoo lifeboat yesterday moments before its covered trawler sank off Clacton.

Gas blast families sue water board

By Patricia Clough

A writ was issued this week on behalf of 29 plaintiffs against gas operators, designers and constructors of Albycote water plant in Lancashire where an explosion last killed 16 people and injured 30.

Mr David Arkwright, a Bolton lawyer, representing a consortium of 12 firms of solicitors acting for 18 families, said the writ was issued on Wednesday against the North West Water Authority, Binnie and Partners, civil engineers, and Edmund Nutall, contractors.

The writ came after another taken out last year against the authority by a Liverpool solicitor Mr E Rex Makin, on behalf of Ms Maureen Burgess, an employee of the authority who was injured. Mr Makin, who also represents three other plaintiffs, said he expected the two cases to be combined.

The explosion, caused by methane gas trapped in a tunnel, occurred as group of villagers from St Michael's on Wyre nearby were on a visit. After an investigation the Health and Safety Executive decided it did not have the necessary evidence to press criminal charges. An earlier inquest returned verdicts of accidental death. The legal consequences of the explosion are expected to be long and complicated.

Tax checks on car sales perks

By Clifford Webb
Motoring Correspondent

The Inland Revenue is investigating the increasing number of foreign holidays and expensive gifts being offered as incentives by car manufacturers to its dealers' salesmen.

The Motor Agents' Association said last night the Inland Revenue was conducting a close examination of the incentives such as free holidays and gifts which it apparently regards as payments in kind and therefore subject to income tax.

The association's spokesman said: "The whole question of incentives is causing concern to dealers. The rush for market share at all costs is pulling sales forward artificially and that could lead to a sharp fall in sales later in the year. They are already building up large stocks of new cars in readiness for the August boom."

The trade publication *Motor Trade* reported yesterday that dealers pay as little as £150 for incentive trips when the true cost is as much as £2,000 a person. Last year Vauxhall took winning salesmen to Hong Kong. This year it is planning to take salesmen to Hollywood.

The lull in the incentive war which manufacturers were predicting two months ago has not materialized. However there has been a switch in tactics. Direct discounts of up to £1,000 a car have been cut back, while prizes for salesmen have been increased.

There has also been a sharp rise in the number of demonstrator cars registered by dealers to boost a manufacturer's market share in a particular month. Ford was the most active in April when its dealers registered 9,000 cars on April 29.

Last month Austin Rover offered incentives of up to 40 per cent discounts on retail prices if dealers replaced their demonstrator fleets before May 31.

Vauxhall is paying a £250 bonus for each Cavalier added to existing demonstrator fleets. Lavish use of incentives boosted car sales last month to 149,701, up nearly 4.5 per cent on the same month last year. Ford retained market leadership with 26.2 per cent.

Study links smoking and infertility

By Nicholas Timmins,
Social Services
Correspondent

Evidence that women who smoke stand an appreciably smaller chance of having a baby has come from a study of 4,000 women at Oxford University.

Women who stopped using contraceptives to try to have a baby were twice as likely not to have succeeded within five years if they smoked more than 20 cigarettes a day than women who did not smoke.

The effect increased with the number of cigarettes smoked. The study comes after evidence suggesting that men who smoke are more likely to be infertile, and the Oxford University team which produced the report say that if anything its figures are likely to underestimate the effect of smoking on women's fertility.

"The impairment of fertility among heavy smokers was substantial", the team of doctors and statisticians say in today's *British Medical Journal*.

On the evidence it says, "it seems reasonable to advocate that women should reduce their cigarette consumption or stop smoking not only during pregnancy but when they are attempting to become pregnant."

In the study only 5.4 per cent of non-smokers and 5.5 per cent of former smokers failed to have a baby within five years of trying, but for those who smoke more than 20 a day the figure was 10.7 per cent.

The pilot of the £13 million Tornado, Squadron Leader Michael Stephens, aged 34, of No 9 Squadron, RAF Honington, Suffolk, died after his aircraft plunged out of control on the Queen's estate in the Norfolk village of Wolferton.

A settlement of £800 was made to the estate by the Ministry of Defence to repair road foundations damaged by vehicles arriving to dig out the aircraft wreckage.

The crash occurred in September 1983 and an inquest last December recorded a verdict of accidental death. Why the pilot failed to eject has not been explained.

The navigator, Flight Lieutenant Nigel Nickles, who survived, told the inquest that the Tornado suffered what appeared to be "instantaneous multiple systems failure" in which all electrical equipment failed.

The navigator bailed out at 15,000 ft, but the pilot went down with the plane.

£50,000 fish loss

Detectives appealed for help last night in tracing members of an animal liberation group who cut trout, worth more than £50,000, free from a coddled breeding ground at Hortons Fisheries in Horton, Berkshire.

Trooper tells of fatal pony ride

Mark Lehan, a trooper in the Life Guards, told an inquest yesterday how a young woman died after he offered a ride on a polo pony.

Trooper Lehan, aged 20, a groom stationed at Combermere Barracks, Windsor, was taking two polo ponies back from a match at Smith's Lawn to the stables, when he met Miss Deborah Baldwin, aged 27, walking in Windsor Great Park.

The inquest at Maidenhead, Berkshire, was told that the trooper struck up a conversation with Miss Baldwin, a British Airways passenger sales executive, of Wood Close, Windsor.

When Trooper Lehan discovered that she was a keen horsewoman, he offered her a ride on the 20-year-old polo pony he was looking after.

"I was riding the grey horse and leading another one back to the stables," he told the East

£1m royalty lost on songs, QC says

Elton John and Bernie Taupin, the songwriters, were left out of pocket of the tune of £1 million because of the wrongful diversion of part of their royalties from foreign record sales, the High Court in London was told yesterday.

The moose was improperly siphoned off into foreign-based subsidiary publishing companies controlled by their former employers, Dick James Music, only 50 per cent of the royalties was returned to the United Kingdom, Mr Mark

Littman, QC, Mr John's counsel, told the court.

As a result, at a time when Mr John's percentage of royalties was increased his share in profits went down. The lost royalties form part of a claim by Mr John and Mr Taupin against the millionaire music publisher, Dick James and his companies.

Mr John, aged 37, and Mr Taupin, aged 34, want the court set aside agreements made with the Dick James group 18 years ago when they were unknown. They seek the damages and

return of copyrights songs which, it is alleged, they were unfairly influenced into signing away. All the claims are being contested by the Dick James companies. Mr James denies any personal involvement.

There were gasps in court when Mr Littman said the estimated amount of allegedly wrongly diverted royalties was £1 million. Mr James laughed aloud.

The hearing continues on Monday.

Champagne breakfast as actor leaves prison

Stacy Keach, (left) the actor, leaving Reading jail yesterday after serving six months of a prison sentence for smuggling cocaine.

Immigration sources said yesterday that his chances of being allowed to return to Britain were remote.

The Home Office refused to speculate on what might happen if Mr Keach sought entry to Britain again, but said that people convicted of extraditable offences, were "normally" refused.

Mr Keach, aged 44, had a champagne breakfast at Heathrow before flying to the United States on Concorde.

PERSONNEL PROBLEM?

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Nalgo and Nupe move towards banning Masons as members

By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter

The trade union movement is about to join the Metropolitan Police and a growing band of Christian churches in denouncing Freemasonry.

Next week's annual conference of the National and Local Government Officers' Association (Nalگو), the biggest white-collar union, will debate a motion which attacks membership of the "craft" as potentially corrupting and strongly advises its members not to become Freemasons or to "resign forthwith".

The motion also calls on public service employers to insist that all officers, councillors and appointed members should declare whether they are members and to ban Freemasons from negotiating contracts or involvement in staff appointments.

The sentiments have been endorsed by the executive of the National Union of Public Employees and will, almost certainly, form the basis of a motion to go before the TUC's annual conference in September.

Benefit cuts could cost war widows £20 a week

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Some war widows and people on industrial disablement pensions could face cuts in housing benefit of as much as £20 a week if the Government's proposed changes go through, it was claimed yesterday.

The cuts in help with rent and rates would come from the new way in which the benefit is to be withdrawn with higher income and the ending of local authorities' discretion to make the housing benefit scheme more generous.

According to the Rowe report, about half of all local authorities ignore income from war widows and industrial disablement pensions when calculating entitlement to housing benefit. The government proposes to stop that happening on the ground that it causes inequity in different parts of the country and between claimants.

Dr Peter Kemp, housing research fellow at University Glasgow, said: "That could mean losses of up to £20 a week for some war widows and some of the disabled."

Glasgow, the local authority with the largest housing benefit caseload, has an estimated 1,500 people on such pensions.



Return match: Signor Manfredi is greeted by his wife Rosita at Turin police headquarters

Solidarity leader expelled for third time from his trial

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

Adam Michnik, enfant terrible and one of the sharpest thinkers in Poland's dissident community, was 15 years old when he delivered a precociously brilliant speech on educational reform to Warsaw's liberal Crooked Circle Club.

He was expelled from school. Later he was expelled from university and from the Socialist Youth union. This week, to no one's surprise, he was expelled from his own trial for the third time.

The Gdansk hearings against Mr Michnik and the two Solidarity organizers, Bogdan Lis and Wladyslaw Frasyniuk, have been variously described by the Government, the defence lawyers, relatives and friends, as a circus, a mockery, a tragedy, an insult to justice and a war of attrition.

The three are accused of trying to incite public unrest. Police broke into a meeting of seven activists, including Mr Lis, on February 13 and allegedly caught them preparing 15-minute nationwide wildcat strikes against food price rises. They face possible five-year jail sentences.

It will be difficult to prove that the session had any conspiratorial intent: on common sense of public appeal was issued by the group. The most incriminating document found was a piece of paper headed "New Price Rises". Police claim to have found the ashes of other burnt papers in the flat.

The second charge is that the three men played leading roles in an "illegal structure", new-speak for Solidarity.

Mr Lis was - according to information smuggled out of jail by Mr Michnik - fured to a

Chancellor confronts his Bavarian tormentor

From Frank Johnson, Bonn

Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, yesterday had a meeting in the Chancellery here with Herr Franz Josef Strauss, his persecutor.

In advance, supporters of the Chancellor and the Bavarian leader used such phrases as "a key talk" to describe the occasion. The two were to have a frank discussion about the difficulties into which the Government has apparently drifted.

But it looked unlikely that it would result in their getting on well together from now on. This is because, in the opinion of Herr Kohl's friends, and of many neutrals, Herr Strauss is one of the difficulties.

Nominally, Herr Kohl and Herr Strauss are allies in the cause of Christian Democracy. Herr Kohl's Christian Democratic Party (CDU) does not campaign in Bavaria. There the cause is embodied in Herr Strauss's Christian Social Union. The CSU has a quota of Government ministers, although these do not include Herr Strauss. He remains Prime Minister of Bavaria, from where he directs the intrigues of his CSU placemen here in Bonn.

Lately, Herr Kohl and the Bonn coalition have become unpopular with the voters. No one knows whether this is much more than what happens in most democracies half-way through a term of office. But Herr Kohl's supporters say that, whatever the explanation, Herr Strauss is making the unpopularity worse with a seemingly endless series of interviews each one nastier than the last about the Chancellor. In the most recent, he said Herr Kohl was a mere "office holder".

These interviews have done their work. On the morning he flew off on his visit to Yugoslavia this week, Herr Kohl was pursued by three opinion polls seemingly vying with one another to show how unpopular he had become.

He was literally pursued: for *Blind Zeitung's* man boarded him on the flight for a comment. "The Giant Totters," had been the mass circulation paper's headline that morning's reference to the opinion polls and to Herr Kohl's physical rather than political stature.

The paper's man on the aircraft reported the next day: "Chancellor Kohl drew himself up, gave me his hand, and said, 'I'm not tottering, even if *Blind* writes it'."

The Kohl faction believes *Blind* to be in league with Herr Strauss.

Yesterday's meeting was expected to be followed by a period of relative calm from Herr Strauss, but it was assumed that he would recover hostilities to the autumn, and perhaps before.

'Committee policing' criticized

From Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter, Bristol

Most people would prefer policing at the discretion of their chief constables rather than policing with the consent of police committees, Mr James Anderson, Chief Constable of Greater Manchester, told a conference of the Association of Chief Police Officers in Bristol yesterday.

In a wide-ranging attack on Whitehall policing assumptions, Mr Anderson, an often controversial chief officer, said Lord Scarman had been right to call for a bond between police and public in his report on the riot in Brixton, south London, but "this error was to mandate consultation".

The police and public relationship was best achieved at grassroots level between individuals and officers, Mr Anderson said: "When political bureaucracy intervenes, as it has in a number of places, the impetus for progress slackens."

A chief constable's freedom to act was constrained by the need to consult all and sundry, Mr Anderson said: "There is no doubt in my mind that the

Missing fan finally gets home

Turin (Reuter, AP) A Juventus supporter who vanished after the riot at the European Cup Final in Brussels 10 days ago was reunited with his family in Turin yesterday after a friend saw him wandering aimlessly through the streets.

Signor Marco Manfredi, aged 40, told police he remembered nothing of the riot in which 38 people were killed but recollected travelling through France, Belgium and Italy by train and crossing the Italian border yesterday.

Doctors said that Signor Manfredi apparently suffered a severe shock that caused him to lose his memory. He had not suffered any blows, and apart from his confusion, seemed to be in good health.

Signor Manfredi told police that during his voyage he had been issued with two fines because he had boarded trains without a ticket.

When he arrived in Ventimiglia, a small town on the Ligurian coast just over the French border, he asked police for the train fare. No-one recognized him. After running out of money he was given food by a cook at a hospital in Saint Nazaire, France.

Signor Manfredi, a lorry driver, has told police that he does not remember leaving Turin with other fans of the Italian team, entering the stadium in Brussels, the game, the riots or what happened to him following the game.

EEC gives £6m to speed Sudan aid

From Ian Murray, Brussels

A £6 million deal to help Sudan modernize its dilapidated railway system so that it can carry emergency food aid was signed in Brussels this week.

The money is being supplied by the EEC, which has had technical teams in the country for the past fortnight so that the project can get under way quickly. It is to be used for repairing the rolling stock and improving the permanent way.

In addition to this money the United States is sending locomotive spare parts worth about £2 million to help in the modernization programme.

The work, however, will have to continue for months, whereas the latest reports show that about six million people in western Sudan are dying at the moment from starvation.

Smile part of the job judge rules

Fort Worth, Texas (AP) - A federal judge has ruled that American Airlines had the right to dismiss a flight attendant because he did not smile enough at passengers.

US District Judge Robert Belew found Thursday against Robert Cox, aged 38, who sued the airline in 1981 for alleged sex discrimination before his probation as a flight attendant had ended.

Mr Cox, who worked for the airline from November 1974 to April 1975, contended in his suit that he was a good employee and met all requirements of the job.

Judge Belew said he was upholding American Airlines' policy of requiring a "friendly facial expression" because it is essential in the competitive airline industry.

NCB harming morale, Kinnoch says

From Tim Jones, Maesteg

The National Coal Board was accused yesterday by Mr Neil Kinnoch, Leader of the Opposition, of deliberately undermining the morale of the miners in the aftermath of the pit strike.

He said: "There are overall orders, pressures and indications from national level, from MacGregor, and his deputy James Cowan, that encourage management to make the lives of the workforce, particularly trade unionists, very uncomfortable."

The board under Mr MacGregor was engaged in "incoherent" management, which would do nothing for the long-term welfare of the industry, he said. He cited examples, particularly in the Scottish coalfield, where he said the management



Mr Kinnoch after his pit visit yesterday

Italian poll on pay cut could end Craxi's term

From Peter Nichols, Rome

Scarcely having emerged from last month's regional and local elections, Italians go to the polls again on Monday and Tuesday to a Communist-inspired referendum on wages policy that has put a question mark over the future of the Government.

The Communist Party's proposal is to abrogate a section of a law approved in April last year which deducted four points from the complicated system by which wages indexation is calculated. The question put to the electors is long and of easy to understand, but in effect it calls on them to re-instate, by voting "yes", the 27,000 lire (£11) which the law took away from wages and salaries by cancelling the four points. With 44,824,712 Italians entitled to vote, the result will be valid if at least 22,412,357 express a straightforward "yes" or "no".

The significance of the issue has gathered force since the Government failed at the end of last month to find a formula by which the massive mechanism of the referendum could be halted.

All the parties concerned are trying to place the heaviest weight on the importance of the outcome they favour.

Signor Bettino Craxi, the Socialist Prime Minister, who pronounced the referendum "useless, iniquitous and damaging", has said that if the wage

indexation law is abrogated he will go to the President with his resignation "a minute later".

Such grand verbal gestures are usually greeted with a great pinch of salt. The Government may well resign if the "yes" vote wins, but because voting in the new presidential election begins in Parliament on June 24, the Prime Minister would as a matter of courtesy have to offer his resignation to the new incumbent of the Quirinale Palace.

If this was what the Bill was about, he had said, this was not the proper way to get it through the House.

The Department of Health and Social Security should have full discussions now with the medical authorities.

Debate concluded at 2.30pm and no further day was named for further consideration of Mr Powell's Bill.

After the adjournment debate, the sitting ended at 2.59 pm - one minute early.

PARLIAMENT JUNE 7 1985 By-election writ play Series of petitions No weekend sitting

Move to get embryo protection Bill considered blocked by procedural devices

COMMONS

At that point Mr Dale Campbell-Savours (Birmingham, Lab) said Mr Hooson had been a great advocate in the House on the life issues and had voted in all divisions in favour of life issues.

Does he not think that use of this procedure in this way (does it) does a great disservice to his memory?

Mr Skinner: I think Mr Campbell-Savours has got a bit of a cheek because he was part of a small unit in this House that was proposing to change the business of the day and many people, including myself, thought it was an abuse of procedure. Now he is coming along and trying to change me with something I paid for myself.

On the subject of genetic engineering, it was odd that Mr Powell, the master scientist, should be pottering about with the embryonic member for Brighton, Kempthorne - Mr Andrew Bowden.

That could become an issue in the by-election, he added.

It was a good idea to keep the Government up all over the weekend but he was not so keen about keeping backbench MPs up (laughter).

The by-election would be lively all about how monetarism had failed, the Prime Minister's brand of monetarism. Standing on one's own feet went out with Robinson Crusoe. He had had to get Man Friday to bail him out (Renewed laughter).

The House of Commons (he continued) is an unusual place. There are a lot of heartaches and a few blessings. But it is full of surprises. You come in one morning and the unexpected happens, and in a way it is invigorating. Today has been one of those unusual days.

It was started by Mr Powell who put the cat among the pigeons, even though it has been done in Mr Bowden's name. But Mr Powell would agree that there are occasions when you win and there are days when you lose. I have a strong feeling that this day will belong to those of us arguing for this writ.

MPs laughed again when Mr Skinner said he had gone to Mr Ian Mikardo (Barns, Lab) and

asked him what the chances were for today. Mr Mikardo had said there was no book because the odds were so long.

I am not trying (he concluded) to score a victory by seven or eight lengths; a short head will do.

Mr Powell said (Mr Skinner, C) said Mr Skinner had done them a great service. For too long the moving of writs has been the subject of a cosy relationship between the Whigs on both sides of the House. However, he was against its issue now - (laughter) - as he was a constitutionalist.

In principle the Conservative Party was anxious to have a by-election. It was a good moment for the Government to answer criticisms of it.

Sir John Biddis-Davison (Epping Forest, C) said that what was likely to damage the prospects of the Conservative Party in the forthcoming by-election was the addition of ministers to the War Office report and hostility to Mr Powell's Bill.

Mr Hogg said opposition to the Bill did not emanate solely from the Treasury bench. It was widely opposed throughout the House.

Mr Andrew Bennett (Donnerdale, Lab) said there was growing concern that there ought to be an automatic procedure, an automatic set of rules, to resolve these matters in future.

Mr Stephen Dorrell (Loughborough, C) said he hoped MPs would not confuse haste with democracy, and would ensure the election was not so speeded up that the candidates and campaign were not given a proper airing.

Mr Peter Shore, for the Opposition, said the people of Brecon and Radnor were anxious to be represented again as quickly as possible.

They also wish to have an opportunity (he said) to pass their own judgement upon this Government and I think the country would wish that also, because there is a strong wish throughout Britain that an opportunity should be provided to fire a warning shot across the bows of the Government as it plunges ever further into controversial and damaging policies in this Parliament.

But having listened carefully he believed on this occasion at least the case had not been established that the by-election would be unduly delayed. There was not the evidence he would need to convince him that that was the case. For that reason he urged Mr Skinner to withdraw his motion.

After Mr Skinner had unsuccessfully sought to do this, Mr John Biffen, Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the House of Commons, said the

Government was agreed that MPs sometimes neglected to consider the servants of the House who worked on the floor of the Chamber without a whimper of complaint.

But it is not only the House servants (he continued) who would be put to inconvenience in not knowing where they are but the servants of my own house, namely my wife (loud laughter).

He had spoken to her last night and she had asked him if he would be in for dinner, or for breakfast on Saturday, and whether she should buy a joint for lunch at the weekend.

What if my wife about supper on Saturday? He had to tell her he did not know.

His wife was wondering desperately if she would see him later tonight or much later.

Mr Kenneth Carlisle (Lincoln, C) said amid laughter. But Mr Crouch has not said whether his wife wants to see this new procedure come about or not.

Mr Crouch said he would consult his wife on that but he hoped his remarks about servants in his house would not be reported, because they might be misinterpreted at home (laughter).

At 12.40pm Mr Peter Bruinvels (Leicester, East, C) successfully moved closure of the debate and his closure motion was carried by 201 votes to 109 - majority 92. Mr Biffen's amendment was then carried by 225 votes to 86 - majority 139, and the motion, as amended, was agreed to without a division.

By then it was after 1pm and Mr Ian Mikardo (Barns, Lab) presented a series of petitions to the House, a large proportion of which were urging defeat of Mr Powell's Bill. Mr Mikardo presented three relating to conditions in Tower Hamlets.

Other petitions were presented by Mr Terence Davis (Birmingham Hodge Hill, Lab); Miss Joan Maynard (Sheffield, Brightside, Lab); Mrs Cyned (Cynon Valley, Lab); Mr William Hamilton (Fife Central, Lab); Mr Alfred Dubs (Battersea, Lab); Mr Harry Cohen (Leyton, Lab); Ms Clare Short (Birmingham, Ladywood, Lab); Mr Dafydd Wigley (Caernarfon, Pl C); Mr Jack Gray (Blackburn, Lab); Mr Robert Crag (Sunderland North, Lab); Ms Jo Richardson (Barking, Lab); Mr Dafydd Thomas (Merionnydd Nant Conwy, Pl C); Mr Jerry Wiggin (Western-super-Mare, C); Mr David Nellist (Covebury South East, Lab); Mr David Crouch (Canterbury, C); Dr Michael Clark (Rochford, C); and Mrs Margaret Beckett (Derby South, Lab).

Mr Crouch agreed that MPs sometimes neglected to consider the servants of the House who worked on the floor of the Chamber without a whimper of complaint.

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Mr Bowden then moved his motion that Mr Powell's Bill be proceeded with until any hour. He rejected accusations that he had abused the procedures of the House; he had used them as other MPs had legitimately done today, but his integrity had been attacked.

Backbenchers should forget the Bill for a moment. If they were not careful they would have over-bounded and foot, all powers to decide on the future of private members' Bills to the Government.

No such Bill, unless it was uncontentious, would have any chance of getting through.

Mr Michael Foot (Blaenau Gwent, Lab) then moved an amendment which opposed this on the grounds that it would breach the longstanding practice to sit on Saturdays and Sundays only in national crises.

He said he did not blame Mr Bowden for introducing his motion. Everyone had the right to use the procedures for their own ends. But the motion's consequences would be far from beneficial for backbenchers. They would be utterly ruinous

to the start.

Earlier, Lord Mabeon (Lab) said that it was crucial to see that innocent men were not brought before the courts only to be discharged.

If they were not careful in the way they legislated, peers might find themselves being accused in a magistrates court and it would be a little consolation to them or their families when the court said there was insufficient evidence to convict. Reputations could be killed in a moment by things of that kind.

Lord Glenarthur said that the innocent were protected by the quality of evidence required for a Bill was read a second time.

The mental agility of women who could operate six bingo cards and at the same time discuss the merits of their husbands and other relatives, was commended in the

House of Lords by Lord Morris (C) when he successfully moved the second reading of the Gaming (Bingo) Bill.

He said that 85 per cent of those who played in bingo clubs were women and their average age was 52. The game afforded an opportunity for women to get out of the house, supported throughout the country by their husbands who might object to wives dancing or going to pubs or following other occupations outside the house.

Lord Glenarthur, Minister of State, Home Office, said the Bill which regulates linked bingo games with a maximum of £50,000 prizes, balanced relaxations with safeguards and a continuing role for the gaming board.

The Insurance (Fees) Bill, Agricultural Training Board Bill and the Charter Trustees Bill were also given unopposed second readings.

No need to alter sex offences Bill

LOARDS

The Government is to maintain resistance to changing the principal clause of the Sexual Offences Bill to prohibit kerb crawling, by opposing the introduction of an element of persistence to the new offence.

Lord Glenarthur, Minister of State, Home Office, said, in the second reading debate on the Bill in the House of Lords, that there could be no reason to add persistence to the clause because it would render it otiose. There would then be reluctance to move the second clause of the Bill, to deal with persistent soliciting in or out of a car.

The view of the Criminal Law Revision Committee and of the Government was that that would not deal with kerb crawling and relatives, was commended in the

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Last-ditch Zapu court action fails to delay elections in Zimbabwe

From Jan Raath, Harare

The high court here has rejected an urgent application by Zapu, the opposition party led by Mr Joshua Nkomo, for a postponement of nomination day for prospective candidates. Granting the request would have led to a delay in the elections, scheduled for July 1 and 2 for black voters, and June 27 for the white electorate.

Late on Wednesday, Zapu's lawyers filed affidavits from Mr Nkomo, saying that the close of nomination day - on Monday - made it impossible for candidates of his party to complete their nomination forms. The voters' roll for the 80 black seats in the House of

Assembly had not yet been published and without the roll, candidates had no way of knowing who the voters were or where they were registered. Zimbabwe's electoral law requires each candidate's nomination paper to be endorsed by at least 10 voters who are registered in the constituency the candidate wishes to stand.

On Thursday, lawyers argued before Mr Justice Mafalala that the Government was being unreasonable in expecting the party to complete the formalities in so short a time, and the proclamation fixing Monday as nomination day was therefore illegal.

Yesterday, however, before a court crowded with Zapu officials and the other opposition parties equally interested in the issue, Mr Justice Mafalala said: "There is no basis in law for this court to declare them (the proclamation and supporting legislation) illegal."

The proclamations were strictly in accordance with the provisions of the constitution, and to declare an act of the state executive *ultra vires* would be "an usurpation of state functions," he ruled.

Mr Nkomo's lawyers immediately gave notice of appeal, which is likely to be heard today.

Namibia assembly date set

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

A "transitional government of national unity" is to be inaugurated in Windhoek, the capital of Namibia (South West Africa), on June 17.

The South African Administrator-General, Dr Willie Van Niekerk, said in Windhoek yesterday that government departments and schools in the territory would be closed to enable workers and students to attend the ceremony.

Mr F. W. Botha, the South African President, will preside and sign a document setting out

the new government's powers, which will exclude defence, foreign affairs and internal security. These will remain in the hands of the South Africans.

Laws passed by the 62-member national assembly will require the signature of the administrator-general. Seats on the assembly will be shared between six local political parties, including one representing the 75,000 whites in Namibia's otherwise black population of 1,051,700.

Two black youths, Themba

Alfred Lata, and Piet Mtambo, were jailed for 10 years and five years respectively by the Pretoria Supreme Court yesterday for killing a white baby boy during last year's unrest.

In another case, Mr Louis Le Grange, the Minister of Law and Order, agreed to pay £15,400 to the children of Mr Saul Mkhize, a black community leader killed as he addressed a protest meeting by a white police constable on April 2, 1983.

Israel sows confusion over extent of pull-back

From Christopher Walker, Rosh Hanikra

Israel-Lebanon border

The phantom nature of this week's promised Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon was underlined on the border yesterday as soldiers and undercover men continued to cross northwards to operate in the 12-mile deep "security" zone which will remain indefinitely under indirect Israeli control.

Although the military censor prevented some news agencies from transmitting reports that more tanks were heading into Lebanon than were leaving on the day the announcement was made, the evacuation was complete, information about the lack of realistic pull-back is beginning to trickle into the Israeli press.

Defence officials were quoted yesterday as saying the main reason why the pull-back had not taken place as promised was because Israel's proxy militia, the mainly Christian "south Lebanon army", had suddenly and unexpectedly begun to disintegrate.

As part of the attempt to disguise the full extent of its cross-border involvement, the Israeli Army had begun refuelling its scores of vehicles still in Lebanon from giant tankers, which have been hastily repainted in the distinctive grey used by the SLA.

UN observers have noted similar repainting of a number



Departing gift: An Israeli woman soldier giving flowers to army engineers as they arrived at a party meant to celebrate the withdrawal from Lebanon.

of other Israeli vehicles, including armoured troop carriers. The play is one of the main reasons why no exact figures are available about how many Israelis are staying in Lebanon.

By yesterday, none of the 10 joint Israeli-SLA fortified positions inside the zone patrolled by the UN had been dismantled.

Some Israeli officers appear to be embarrassed by the obvious fiction of the final withdrawal, which was originally scheduled to be carried

out on Thursday. Many Israelis do not know what is happening on the ground because domestic accounts of the withdrawal, particularly those on the television news, have been strictly censored.

Cash for farmers to produce no milk

From Ian Murray, Knokke

The EEC's controversial milk quota scheme can probably be wound up by 1989, Mr Frans Andriessen, the Agriculture Commissioner, said here yesterday. It will be achieved largely by paying farmers not to produce milk.

The Commission is also investigating other ways of paying farmers to produce less so that their incomes can be maintained even if they sell smaller quantities for lower prices.

"The milk quota scheme, introduced last year, has caused fierce resentment among dairy farmers throughout Europe. The Community has been spending more per pint to get rid of surplus milk than the farmer has been paid for the milk itself."

Mr Andriessen said that the quota scheme had succeeded in reducing production of milk powder last year by 370,000 tonnes and that estimates for this year were for further 200,000 tonnes cutback. This meant there was a 25 per cent reduction over just two years.

Mr Andriessen was less optimistic about controlling cereal production. Estimates showed that 1985 would set a new world record and the Community was expected to harvest around 131 million tonnes. This would create serious disposal problems.

Senate votes \$38m aid for Contras

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

President Reagan has won a partial but important victory in the senate for his plan to bolster the Nicaraguan Contra rebels, who are being driven back by one of the most concerted defenses mounted by the Sandinista army.

The Senate approved by 55 votes to 42 the provision of \$38 million (£29 million) of "humanitarian aid" for the rebels over the next two years.

President Reagan wanted money for guns and ammunition, but senators were adamantly opposed to further military entanglement in the five-year guerrilla war.

The House of representatives will consider a plan next week to provide \$27 million, extending only until spring. Unlike the Senate proposal, the House version "which looks likely to be approved" ensures that the Central Intelligence Agency would have no role in distributing the money.

Most Democratic lawmakers are still angry that the CIA helped to attack the Nicaraguan oil terminal port of Corinto in late 1983.

The final plan for helping the guerrillas will be worked out in a House-Senate conference. It is almost certain to place clearly defined limits on how aid is to be used, but there are grey areas that congressmen admit they cannot clarify, such as whether petrol and uniforms can truly be said to be "humanitarian".

A certain amount of informal case-by-case congressional monitoring is probable.

The Senate debate on the Contras has focused attention on whether President Reagan has contingency plans to send combat troops to Nicaragua. A few months ago most lawmakers saw no such likelihood. Now there are more doubts.

Even Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State - usually a man of temperate language - has said the US might face the "agonizing" question of whether to commit troops to Nicaragua.

MANAGUA: President Ortega said the Senate vote was a slap in the face not only for Nicaragua but for all of Latin America as well as North American people who had shown themselves to be against the "warlike" policies of their government (Alan Tomlinson writes).

"He saw no difference between arms for the Contras and humanitarian aid, such as food, which amounted to logistical support. Since the aid now proposed was to be administered through the US National Security Council, or, in other words, he said, through the CIA, he was sure the Contras would be receiving weapons."

"The lives of Nicaraguans are not of much importance to the North American president, nor are the lives of North American youth."

Mr Reagan's support for the Contras, together with his "systematic sabotage" of the Contadora peace process, were creating the conditions for direct US military intervention.

Uproar at reprieve for killers

From Ivo Davis, Los Angeles

Already under heavy fire for its liberal tendencies, the California Supreme Court has come under fresh criticism for overturning four death sentences, including two imposed in child-murder cases.

As a result of reversing the gas-chamber rulings, the state's highest court has now overturned 33 death penalties since capital punishment was reinstated in California in 1977.

The reversals prompted strong criticism from prosecutors.

Only three gas-chamber cases have been affirmed by the court, which is headed by Chief Justice Rose Bird. By a four-to-two margin the court overturned the sentence on Theodore Frank, convicted of the murder of a two-year-old girl. Frank, who had a history of child molesting, tortured the child before mutilating and killing her.

Doctors in Czech bribe case jailed

Prague (AP) - Two doctors were sentenced to prison terms of six months and 17 months for taking bribes from patients needing treatment, the Communist Party newspaper *Rude Pravo* reported yesterday.

Publication of the cases is in line with a recent crackdown on bribery and corruption.

The newspaper said Dr Ivo Gutvirth, a noted gynaecologist and head physician of Podborany Hospital in North Bohemia, was found guilty of taking money and other goods from patients.

He had earlier received a suspended sentence, but the Minister of Justice overturned the ruling and jailed him for six months with a £470 fine.

Dr Vaclav Bracht, of Chodov, also in North Bohemia, was sentenced to 17 months and expelled from the Communist Party for a long list of petty bribes.

Medical care is free in Czechoslovakia, but the habit of paying "attention money" to physicians is widespread.

Agca refuses to testify because of KGB 'threat'

Rome (AP) - Mehmet Ali Agca, the prosecution's star witness, refused to testify yesterday about what he called a conspiracy to kill the Pope because he said he felt threatened by the Soviet KGB and Bulgaria.

He also said he invented some of the things he told investigators, but he did not elaborate.

Much of the case against the three Bulgarians and four other Turks accused with Agca of plotting to kill the Pope is based on what he told investigators. He shot and wounded the Pope four years ago, in Rome, and is serving a life sentence.

Yesterday, when Judge Severino Santalupich asked him to name people he claimed had planned the attack in Bulgaria, Agca refused.

"Now the KGB is threatening me; the Bulgarian state is threatening me now. I cannot say."

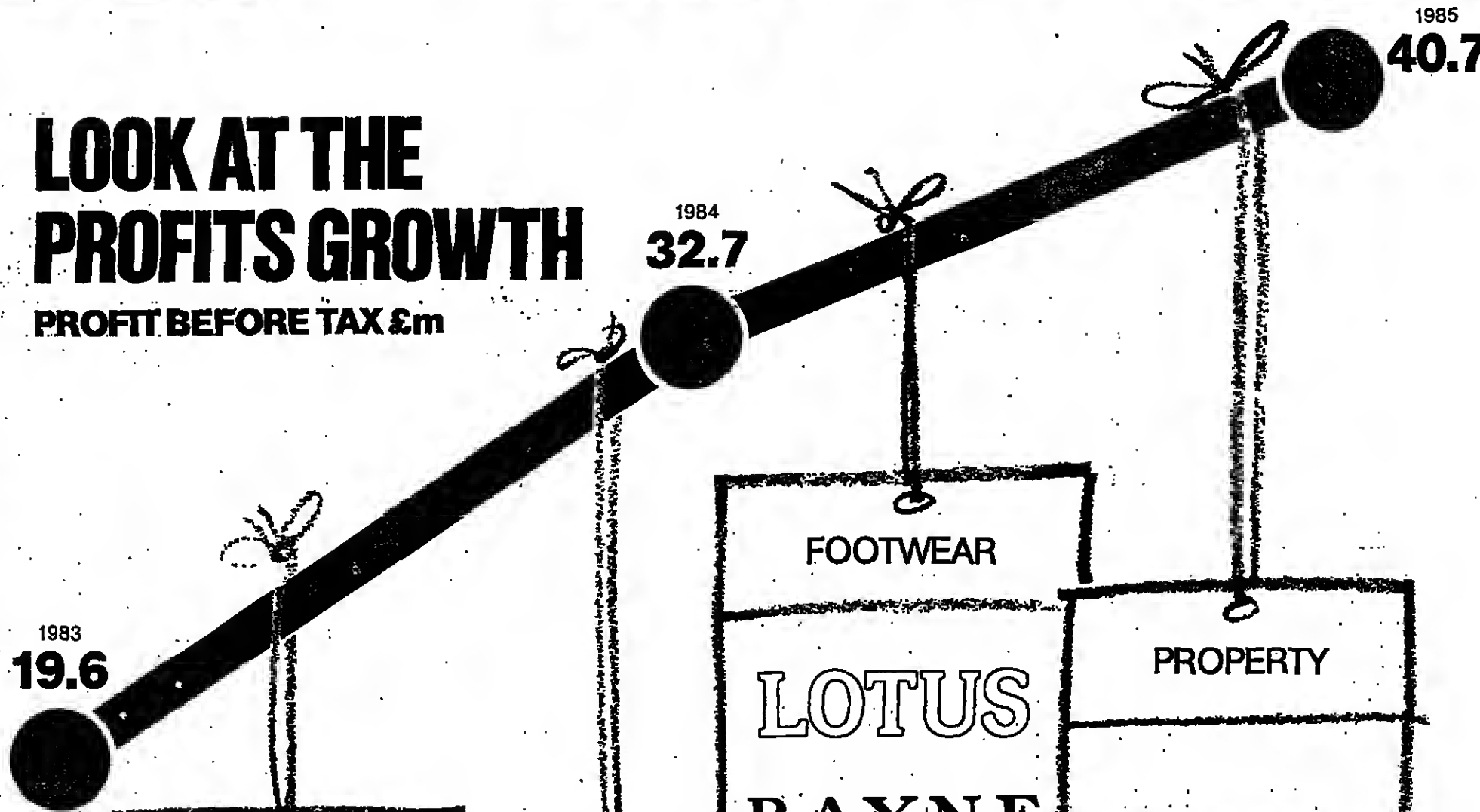
He then rambled about a visit to the Vatican by a Bulgarian official who met the Pope three days before the trial opened.

The prosecutor, Signor Antonio Marini, shouted at him to stick to the facts. Defence attorneys shouted back: "Let him speak, let him speak." The judge angrily warned all the lawyers to remain silent.

Debenhams-the facts

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SPORTING DIARY

Simon Barnes

Armchair critic

Former champions spend a lot of time telling people that today's players are not like those of yore. Fred Perry, the former Wimbledon champion, has worked out his own case mathematically. He cites the "marathon" Wimbledon final of 1980 between Bjorn Borg and John McEnroe, which lasted four and a half hours, and estimates that, with the 90 seconds permitted for changing ends - sitting down at that, which they never did in Perry's day - and the 30 seconds allowed between every point, the two players spent about two and three quarters hours of the match at rest. He adds, in his newly paperbacked autobiography "I don't know whether to laugh or cry when I watch the start of a tennis match these days. There they are, two young sportsmen, trained to the limit. And what do they do? They play one game - just one game - then they sit down for a rest... they'll be providing armchairs and Li-los next."

Good catch

On July 1, wind, weather and tides permitting, a fishing fleet will pull out of Deal harbour to play a game of cricket on the Goodwin Sands. The full Kent side will take on a team of local cricketers in a 10-over match. It will be a good loss to win, for the team batting second has a definite advantage - the tide comes in and shortens the boundaries throughout the game. It will be the eighth game played on the sands. The first was played in 1813, and the most recent was in the 1970s. Organizers are hoping for a large boat-borne crowd for the event, but one member of the Kent side will be unable to make the fixture. Graham Dilley gets seasick as soon as he walks along a gang-plank.

○ Sporting contests between Oxford and Cambridge universities move into a new era tomorrow. The first varsity Ultimate Frisbee match takes place at the Angel Meadow, off the Magdalen Bridge, Oxford. In a spirit of "competitive co-operation".

Winning strain

Statistically it should be a sure thing that a son of Slip Anchor, winner of Wednesday's Derby, will be the 1992 winner. Seven years ago Slip Anchor's sire, Shirley Heights, won the race. The winner seven years before that was the sire of Shirley Heights, the great Mill Reef. Seven years from now, then, the day must belong to a great-grandson of Mill Reef.

Deep breaths

A team of elastic-jumped Brits are preparing for an assault on the world spearfishing championship, which will be held in Majorca on June 22 and 23. The contest involves the pursuit of different species of fish at a depth of up to 110 feet without any breathing apparatus beyond a snorkel. While anyone who has ventured in waters where spear-fishing is illegal, and who has consequently been virtually mobbed by the fish, might feel equivocal about the sport, the team manager, Ron Jacobs insists: "It's a greater test of breathing control than of catching fish."

Archie, not Ali

Archie Moore, the former world light heavyweight champion, is about to leave hospital after treatment for stings by a swarm of bees. Moore, 72, is an amateur bee-keeper who also trains American boxer Tom Payne. He said: "Training fighters is much easier than training bees."

Fruitful

On Derby Day it was nice to see the Queen and the victorious jockey, Steve Cauthen, both clad in apricot, the racing colour of Lord Howard de Walden. Every member of the winning party were apricot carnations. As for Henry Cecil, trainer of the winner, he was asked afterwards what he had seen as the greatest rival to his runaway winner. He declared that he would only have been a danger had he competed with his own three-year-old filly, Oh So Sharp. As it is, the filly runs in The Oaks this afternoon, with bookies trembling on the outcome of a host of Henry Cecil double bets.

● The inapparently named Maidens of Babbscombe have cancelled all their 1985 cricket fixtures. Four of their members are pregnant.

Double century

"Nine Gentlemen of The Times" will take on the might of Collins and Publishers in a cricket match at Broadbent Down, Hambleton on June 22 at 11.30am. Mike Brearley, the former England captain (not a ringer, he has honestly written for *The Times*) will lead the side, with David Green, formerly with Oxford, Lancashire and Gloucestershire, alongside. Among the Collins authors is a well-known writer, R. G. D. Willis. It is very devoutly hoped that he will bowl leg-breaks. The occasion is in mark the paper's bicentenary, and to celebrate the publication of the anthology, *Double Century: 200 years of cricket in The Times*, edited by Marcus Williams.

There had been hopes of playing the game in period costume with Chappellesque underarm bowling, curved bats, padded legs and all. But to make a match out of such ideal conditions would have required months of practice. The scheme was abandoned with heartfelt regret.

Public pay - a productive approach

by Sarah Hogg

The problem of public pay now pressing in on us again, with a teachers' strike on the one hand, and an 8.6 per cent pay settlement for nurses on the other, has its roots in a perennial problem about the measurement and management of public services. In private industry, if new equipment or work practices serve to double output per worker, this will show up in figures as a 100 per cent increase in productivity. But in public services, we measure the price of inputs, not the value of outputs.

If a hospital rearranged its wards, for example, with the result that one night nurse can watch over numbers of patients that previously required two nurses, that would tend to show up in the figures for current public expenditure as a cut - in just the same way as if the ward containing the second lot of patients had simply been closed. This over-simplified picture illustrates a critical problem. In private industry, it is those productivity increases that finance real pay increases, justified by the increased value of the output. In public services, pay cannot rise in "real" terms - ie, over and above inflation - without simultaneously increasing the real cost of public expenditure.

This offers a grim choice to any government attempting to stabilize public spending and most western governments have been struggling to do so since the late 1970s. Either government can try to hold the "real" pay of its own employees constant - in which case they will fall further and further behind private sector employees (unless the latter are to be deprived of the fruits

of their productivity by pay controls). Or it can cut staff and be accused of cutting services. A third option would be to allow rising pay to absorb more and more of public spending, in which case it will eat deeper into other budgets.

In practice, governments pursue a mix of all three policies. After the first, extensive election pledges have been redeemed, in 1979-80 the Thatcher Government has held pay roughly constant in real terms, as recent calculations by the National Institute for Economic and Social Research demonstrate.

For the public services as a whole, pay rose just 0.1 per cent faster than prices from 1980-81 to 1984-85, some 7.2 per cent slower than in the economy as a whole. The nurses did fall behind inflation by 2.5 per cent while the police roared 15.9 per cent ahead, and the teachers by just 1 per cent. Of course all lobbyists measure pay against their best past place in the pay league - in the teachers' case, the 1970s. This competitive lobbying is a much worse way of fixing pay than market forces, because it entrenches groups of employees in party camps (police and soldiers with the Tories, local authority manual workers with Labour).

The government has set a series of declining "pay factors" which cumulatively allowed for a 17.5 per cent rise in pay in the past four years, compared with the 31.5 per cent increase that was actually made. Low "pay factors" are clearly a way of lowering the inflation

temperature. The real question is whether they are also a way of stimulating productivity. While inflation was declining, the "pay factors" each year turned out to be less severe at the end of the year than they appeared to be at the beginning. And there was always the contingency reserve built into public spending plans to help bridge the gap. The real test comes now when inflation has risen - sharply if temporarily - and the Chancellor is grimly determined to protect his contingency reserve from raids early in the financial year.

The Government has therefore resorted to another short-term expedient by "staging" its award to nurses. This has the effect of diminishing the impact of their 8.6 per cent increase on the bills for 1985-86, but raising the 1986-87 baseline a good 3 per cent - before any pay increase is discussed for next year. In the past this particular dodge made an awful mess of public spending figures in the early years of the Thatcher Government, but on this occasion is plainly intended to tide it over a bump in the inflation figures, while seeing the popular and non-striking nursing profession right.

Nor will a widening gap between public and private pay instantly produce a clear market signal. The situation will instead deteriorate until there is a sudden exodus or shortage and a great deal of damage will have to be expensively undone. Meanwhile, the public sector will have lacked the stimulus to achieve

productivity. "Cash limits" or "pay factors" can more easily be met by cutting services (which rebounds on the government) than by increasing efficiency (which is hard work for its managers). The government needs more ways of measuring and rewarding efficiency in the public service.

Even the attempt to inject market forces into the settlement of public pay will not be enough without output measurement. Market criteria are a welcome improvement for public-sector workers on pressure group politics. The market is an unbiased indicator of whether individuals think the job is worth doing for the money. It tells us, for example, that plenty of people want to train as nurses, but that the trained ones can leave for better-paid private medicine. But it cannot provide all the answers. If there are plenty of college leavers queuing up to become teachers, that is no guarantee of sufficient quality. Responsible, senior teachers may be locked in by years of specialization. They must not be exploited. But most important, if the market tells us we must pay public employees more, it does not say how the money is to be found.

The Government's aim should not be to hold public spending constant, but rather to maintain public services, at no real increase in costs. Of course it is difficult to measure the "output" of health or education. But until it is achieved to some degree, governments will either fail to cut spending, or deliver services, or both. The author is economics editor of *The Times*.

Clifford Longley on the threat to rural Anglicanism

A deathly hush in the church

The Church of England faces extinction in the countryside in the next 20 years. Worse still, that warning is contained in an account of the weakness of the church in what is traditionally its natural rural habitat.

The analysis was published in paperback form yesterday. It is macroscopic, rather than microscopic, dwelling less on national trends than on the hardness of the kneecaps and the softness of the sermons in a selection of churches in one typical rural diocese. But the examples were chosen with care; and there is no reason to doubt that national trends can be read from them. It is a picture of almost unmitigated hopelessness.

In a typical rural diocese, church membership registered on parish electoral rolls fell from 17.5 per cent of the population in 1950 to 7.4 per cent in 1980. Hitherto the worrying national statistics have been explained away: at the grass roots, churchmen have been wont to say, there is life and hope for the future. But the message of the falling graphs is now seen to be all too accurate. There is no magic solution in sight, no new policy just working its way through which has not yet shown up in the figures.

The author of the report, Dr Leslie Francis, a church sociologist, has included a set of case-studies, with only the names changed. This is his account of the church in the villages of "Falkwell". The vicar is "the Rev Owen Thornton" who is in his seventies and talks enthusiastically about "the movement of the Holy Spirit" in the two rural parishes under his care. But there is no Sunday school, no youth club, no young people in the tiny choir. There is a C of E primary school - with a roll on the borderline of viability, and the local education authority poised with an axe.

"The church school was founded in Falkwell in the 1850s, and the presence of the Christian church has been very strong in the village at least since the foundation of the Benedictine priory there in the twelfth century," Dr Francis writes. "Now, the 1980s are likely to see the withdrawal of this distinctive church presence in all but the medieval church itself. Already the church congregation has dwindled in number and grown old... At the same time the Rev Owen Thornton retires. Falkwell vicarage will be put up for sale, and the two parishes will be added to the pastoral care of neighbouring clergy. And so an era is about to end." In Falkwell, and elsewhere.

Similarly, there are case-studies of



individual clergymen, and how they conduct their all-important moments of contact with the local community, their Sunday services. Dr Francis sent out a team of priests-in-training to make random visits to every type of parish one typical Sunday. They returned "a lot wiser and good deal sadder."

They selected one typical deanery and went to every service in 21 of its parish churches, which turned out to be a good cross-section of the church as a whole.

There were some good things, certainly. Almost all the church buildings looked cared for and well maintained, and most advertised their times of service (though only half announced the name and address of the vicar). But in a minority of cases finding out the times of services took considerable detective work.

The 24 services themselves were a let down. At only three was the clergyman waiting at the door to welcome worshippers. Only six services had more than 20 in the congregation; six had five or less, and nine had between six and ten. The team compared attendances with those reported by the incumbent in the diocesan statistical yearbook, and noted an average exaggeration of about 40 per cent. (I

may indeed be true that national statistics do not tell the real story, if this is the case generally. The real story may be much worse.)

Of the congregations, two thirds were women, and nearly 60 per cent were over 60. Two out of five services were attended by no one under the age of 40. At 16 of the 24 services there were no children or young people. The congregational singing was "poor and unenthusiastic" and in only three churches was there a choir judged to be of any use. The visitors felt uneasy about joining in.

Six of the sermons were rated interesting, ten as dull and boring, and the other services had none at all. The majority of clergy had apparently "given up trying" in their preachings, for their sermons related neither to the service nor to life. It must be said that there were some exceptions where none of these generalizations was true. But to pluck one eye-witness report at random from the case studies: "The sermon was a strange experience... the vicar spoke loudly and forcefully for minutes but quickly lost the attention of the congregation... no use was made of visual aid or anecdotes to stimulate attention or elicit response... the whole style was didactic and forceful... authoritative and controversial

statements seem to have been made without any support of logic, argument, or fact..."

The whole picture is not just of statistical death, but of spiritual death, and Dr Francis calls it a crisis in rural Anglicanism. He does not think it too late if deliberate steps are taken, and his priority would be to find the means to interest the young people so conspicuously missing from rural church life.

He found a vicar who ran an annual "summer holiday club" for children in the vicarage grounds and a summer weekend event for teenagers, who assiduously visits the local schools and youth organizations, and who sends his parish youth leaders to attend national meetings. There is a youth club for church members and another for non-members, also run by the church; and almost every weekday evening the vicar is engaged in one aspect or other of youth work. Three young people sit on the parochial church council. It is one parish with an obvious future. But there is no evidence from the survey of any general desire to copy such rare examples. It points on the contrary, to an Anglican rural death-wish. The church has given up.

**Rural Anglicanism* by Leslie Francis, published by Collins at £5.95.

Why Rajiv and Reagan must be patient

Washington. Like his grandfather and mother, Rajiv Gandhi aims for a middling course as he shapes his policy with the big powers. In Moscow recently he reassured the Russians that it is business, as usual. In Washington next week he will seek improvements in a relationship with a long history of mutual suspicion.

It was reported that some American officials were disappointed by Gandhi's warm approach to Moscow. But it is hard to believe that any American with a realistic view expects anything different. It was good political sense for Gandhi to make Moscow his first call. Here was a new leader meeting a new leader, making assurances of continuity in an established relationship which offers many bonuses for India.

The two countries are major trade partners and the Russians are India's principal arms suppliers, at bargain prices. Indians do not forget that when they were struggling to industrialize it was the Russians who built power stations and steelworks to help them get going.

In Moscow Gandhi did not embarrass his hosts on Afghanistan. He used the oblique line of expressing general disapproval of countries intervening in others. He criticised President Reagan's "Star Wars" ideas and blamed the Americans for failing to control Pakistan's nuclear weapons programme. Indo-Soviet friendship was

reaffirmed and a handsome trade deal struck.

Now it is America's turn. Both sides are anxious for rapprochement. US foreign policy towards India has generally been one of missed opportunities and misunderstanding.

Americans were suspicious of Nehru's mild socialism and the state economic planning he believed vital for a young, developing country. They bridled the criticism America which he, and later Mrs Gandhi, handed out. India has always felt willfully misunderstood by the United States, has deeply resented America's backing of Pakistan, and feels it has often been ignored, not treated with the respect due to the dominant - and democratic - power in south Asia.

Indians also think, resentfully, that Americans do not know much about them. Perhaps Gandhi's young technocrat image and the festival of India that he will launch during his trip, along with the current state of films and television series set in India, will broaden minds.

In Rajiv Gandhi the Americans sense a major opportunity for improvement. They like the look of him. He is essentially one of "Midnight's Children", a product of independent India, with none of the historical baggage borne by people of his mother's generation. Since he had no political past, he arrived in power with no scores to settle.

The Americans were encouraged by his relatively liberal, tax-cutting and business-boosting budget. President Reagan hailed it, over enthusiastically, as an economic revolution.

But a new man and a shift in the economic course do not mean that India will draw closer to the West at the expense of the Russian relationship. The idea, once part of American thinking, that working relationships with both the Russians and the Americans are mutually exclusive, is old-fashioned but still persists.

Gandhi's understandable ambition is to secure the best of all possible worlds. In private he has expressed his desire for friendlier ties with the US, which is an even bigger trading partner than the Soviet Union. He sees his country embarking on a new industrial revolution based on high technology, and the Americans are willing to trade the hardware and expertise that only they can provide.

Trade, technology and military sales will be relatively straightforward areas of agreement, but there are profound and prickly questions which have always bedevilled the relationship. Pakistan will be high on the agenda.

In particular the prime minister will tell the president bluntly of his anxiety over Pakistan's nuclear weapons programme, and US mili-

tary supplies to Pakistan. India believes that the Americans always backed Pakistan in the Indo-Pakistani wars, and that Reagan should use his leverage to ensure that Pakistan does not develop its nuclear capability.

There is an extraordinarily sensitive balancing act here. The Americans arm Pakistan against the Russian threat and use it as a conduit for supplying the Mujahidin in Afghanistan. The Americans will try to assure Gandhi that the balances are right, that Pakistan is not as close to making its own bomb as the Indians say, that American influences on this question are felt and heeded.

India's reluctance to say much about the Russian invasion of Afghanistan annoys Americans. But in private the Indians are dismayed by it, and agree the opportunity this provided for Pakistan to build its military strength. The key to stability on the subcontinent, the relationship between India and Pakistan, offers Gandhi the critical challenge of his leadership.

The United States is entitled to hope that the new leader in Delhi offers the prospect of change for the better. But considering the history of Indo-American relations, and the cross-currents created by Pakistan, the Russians and Afghanistan, Americans should not hope for too much at first.

Trevor Fishlock

John O'Sullivan

Just an arc for art's sake

New York. While London has been absorbed in the battle, now happily won, to repel Mr Palumbo's glass tower, New Yorkers have been squabbling with equal ferocity over a 12ft high, 112ft long, intentionally rusting steel wall which goes under the name "Tilted Arc". This is a piece of minimalist sculpture by the artist Richard Serra - but it is not nearly minimalist enough for some people.

"Tilted Arc" was commissioned in 1979 by the General Services Administration (GSA), the US government, as part of its "Art in Architecture" programme. This programme is designed to improve the quality of life of people working in federal buildings by underwriting works of art that "enhance the environment".

Serra finished sculpting the rusty wall in 1981 and it was installed in Manhattan's Foley Square where, said to say, many of the office workers failed to realize that it was a work of art at all. They thought it was a temporary protective structure akin to scaffolding. When they realized that it was indeed art - and permanent art at that - their rage knew no bounds.

They complained that the sculpture was an eyesore, that it attracted graffiti, that it sheltered vagrants, that it offered muggers a useful hiding place from which to spring out at unsuspecting victims, and that it got in the way of picnics and concerts in the square. Their cause was taken up by the more populist politicians and journalists. The columnist Beth Falloa wrote ominously: "The line has got to be drawn somewhere, and to me the rusty steel thing is that somewhere."

In the face of these philistine protests, however, some were determined to believe that "Tilted Arc" enhanced the environment. One critic wrote lyrically: "The Arc, in its long gentle sweep, reaches out to embrace the two great classical courthouse buildings across the square, pulling the civic buildings around Foley Square together."

Serra took heart and threatened to take out an injunction if the GSA tried to remove his Arc. It was, he said, site-specific. Its home was Foley Square. To remove it elsewhere would be to destroy it.

One might have imagined that such arguments would be unappealing to an art world composed largely of patrons, gallery owners and museum officials. They reduce a patron to the artist's slave, subject to the demands of the artist's vision. And they cast doubt on the value of museums and galleries which, after all, are usually the repository for work intended by the artist for some other place. Nonetheless, that art world rallied round magnificently.

At a recent public inquiry famous figures from the art world such as Mrs Walter Mondale (or "Joan of Arc" as she is disrespectfully known in Washington) took the stand. She quoted Proust and pointed out that the artist made us "see things in a new light with new eyes" - an argument vehemently denied by the workers around Foley Square. They think that the artist is making them see a rusty steel wall.

Mr William Rubin, the Museum of Modern Art's director of painting and sculpture, said that "truly challenging works of art" often require a period of adjustment for the public to appreciate them. The argument is familiar - and weaker than it looks. If it is art's shock value that challenges the public, does that survive a second viewing? Can we be regularly shocked? Challenged daily? If, on the other hand, we only appreciate the work of art properly by overcoming the challenge, isn't four years a reasonable time to allot to the appreciation of "Tilted Arc"?

Rubin thought it would be a "dangerous precedent" to remove the sculpture in response to a "popular vote". Others saw more apocalyptic dangers. Former Senator Jacob Javits sent along a letter comparing any such removal to Communist repression. And the director of the Max Planck Institute in West Germany warned, also by letter, that it reminded him of "certain events practised since Germany's history between 1933 and 1945". It was a little difficult at times to remember that we were talking about removing a wall.

The GSA panel eventually decided to defy these expert alarms and to recommend that "Tilted Arc" be moved (its contract with Serra explicitly allows for this). This week the panel's decision was confirmed by the GSA's administrator, the wonderfully named Mr Dwight Ink, and Serra has revived his threat of an injunction.

There are few spectacles more ridiculous than the art establishment in one of its periodical fits of moral superiority. The implicit argument of Serra and his supporters throughout was that the public has to take what artists give it, whether it likes it or not. Any protest by the public was a form of censorship or political repression. But the public is no longer so easily cowed by modernist self-assurance. It is not dazzled by the false syllogism: "Picasso was laughed at, I am laughed at. Therefore I am Picasso".

So a long legal battle is possible. It might be averted if Serra were to be converted from minimalism to the aesthetic theory of destructionism. He might then, for purely artistic purposes, blow up "Tilted Arc" and collect another \$175,000.

Philip Howard

Thatcher? I'm not sure

The trouble with Mrs Thatcher is not that she did not go to Eton; nor, pace silly old Bernard, that she did not sleep with the right people while at Eton. She would clearly have been an ornament of the old Coll, and elected unanimously to Pop. Nor is the trouble that she is a woman. Whatever you think of her policies, it is a great distinction for our generation to have Britain's first female prime minister; and about time too, considering where the males have got us.

Nor is the trouble the snobbish complaint that she is suburban or common. Snobbery is the *Pax Britannica*, but it is not confined to one class. In any case the best recent prime ministers have had the common touch, or at any rate put on a good performance of being at home with ordinary people of the lower and middling sort, whoever they are. If the choice is between Sloane Ranger and Finchley housewife, there is no contest. Finchley housewife wins by a knock-out.

Nor is the trouble that she seems a bit short of the gentler feminine virtues, and that her voice is not ever soft, gentle and low, an excellent thing in women. To get to the top in politics you have to be as gentle as a Brillo pad. Nor is the trouble that she might not be top of one's list of candidates in a marooned with on a desert island. In fact she would be formidably enterprising at Robinson Crusoe do-it-yourself. Nor is the trouble that she is said not to have much sense of humour, though she must not be surprised if some of us smile as she tries to recite the Prayer of St Francis outside Downing Street.

The cloud, like a man's hand, that arises about her grows out of her single-mindedness. Some of us wish that we were as cocksure of anything as she seems of everything. No doubt there are simple truths and Copybook Headings even in the dismal science of economics. But most economics is not a science at all, whatever the ayayinlahs of monetarism may preach, but making the best of a bad job with the imperfect and perverse material of human nature. Old Sir Winston said: "Whenever I ask England's six leading economists a question, I get seven answers - two from Mr Keynes. Enthusiasm and fanaticism are dangerous, especially when you are sure you are right; and most schemes of political improvement are very laughable things."

In any case, as politicians say sanctimoniously, the argument is not about personalities but about "issues"; of course you cannot tidily separate issues from personalities. Mrs Thatcher's policies were a necessary reaction created by the inflation and union anarchy of the 1970s, and they have done much to mitigate both those evils. But inflation and union anarchy are not

the only evils in this wicked world. The wets and wobblers among us would like a bit more evidence that these brave new policies are working in the way they are infallibly supposed to, and raise an eyebrow when told that they need another five years to work.

I am afraid it is worse even than that. I dare say we are short-sighted and colour-blind. But we do not much like the look of this brave new United Kingdom towards which the policies are supposed to be working. It seems a bit bleak. It sounds anti a number of things that we are on the side of, like boring old dons, and teachers, and the BBC, and the Civil Service, and the National Health Service, and the arts, and the humanities, and the poor, and the old, and the silly, and even Sir Peter Hall (to an extent).



The new vocationalism in education is just another name for barbarism. This Jungian dream of the strong silent individual is another name for selfishness. Small businessmen, and computer-studies, schools, and resource areas in our and thrushful entrepreneurs are all very well, to an extent. But if they leave no room for Old Chalkie medical treatment in the world for sceptical civil servants, and vital industries will run for the common good, and the pursuit of learning even though there is no profit in it, and tabloid newspapers that tell the truth as well as titillate, and poetry, and dappled things, England will not be England any more.

"A good thing, too," you may say. But I am not so sure. And now, that is quite enough politics, Philip. There must be more important things to write about. And indeed there are.

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P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

STICK TO THE BIG PRINT

On Monday President Reagan will announce his decision about whether or not to continue to abide by the never ratified but unofficially observed Salt 2 treaty which the Soviet Union has persistently violated. The violations are well documented as they are for those other U.S.-Soviet arms control measures whose existence has induced a profound and natural suspicion in Washington about the basic value of arms control. Does it enhance security or, when conducted with the Soviet Union, only induce a sense of false security which then leads to danger?

Mr Reagan's decision has to take account of four ingredients. They are: the actual security of the United States; public opinion at home; Alliance opinion; and the nature of the strategic relationship which is being attempted to define and mould with the Soviet Union.

On the first point it is clear that Salt has helped to erode American security, though the arithmetic of missile technology shows that no irreparable point has been reached or would be reached by some continued short-term observance of the treaty. Domestic public opinion is a more difficult area for Mr Reagan because he has to make it clear why the Soviet Union can be allowed to violate the treaty and not the United States. He has to beware of inducing the American people to lose confidence in his ultimate ability to be firm with the Soviet Union where it matters, and in the words of Mr George Shultz, Secretary of State, "to act in a way that could help discipline Soviet behaviour" without being so wedded to improving relations that "we turn a blind eye to actions that undermine the very foundation of stable relations".

At this point Mr Shultz has been consulting Nato, whose meeting ended yesterday with an endorsement of Mr Reagan's position at Geneva, but no mention of his Strategic Defence Initiative which is in fact a fundamental part of that whole Geneva package. Moreover, the allies made it clear that they would not like Mr Reagan to repudiate Salt 2, certainly at this stage.

What Mr Reagan has to bear in mind, therefore, is the fact that Europe is still not ready to embrace the full logic of Soviet arms violation, both with Salt and with the anti-ballistic missile treaty which covers strategic defence research against incoming missiles. The Soviet defence programme for strategic defence this year is greater than that which will be funded in next year's American defence budget, which is a measure of the importance Moscow attaches to the principle of strategic defence. Yesterday Dr George Keyworth, the President's chief scientific adviser, announced that the technological prospect for effective missile defence had so improved that a practical demonstration could easily emerge before the end of the Reagan presidency.

In the face of such momentum, the Soviet Union will obviously not give up trying to stifle the American defence effort by encouraging allied disapproval until it is clear that Washington is going to sit it out patiently at Geneva. In consequence a visit to Europe later this month of Vice-President Bush will be important if he succeeds in allaying European doubts about the technology gap and the brain drain, by offering a fuller political and technical partnership in the whole programme than has hitherto been indicated from Washington.

Finally Mr Reagan's calculations concern America's long-term relationship with the Soviet Union. As Mr Shultz says: "So long as the Soviet system is driven by ideology and national ambition to seek to aggrandize its power and undermine the interests of the democracies, true friendship and co-operation will remain out of reach." The West as a whole, led by the United States, therefore has to resist this power drive vigorously while, in the thermo-nuclear age, extending more constructive possibilities.

It is hard work, bedevilled by short memories. Fifteen years ago when the United States was beset by difficulties the Soviet Union exploited those conditions to a point where they believed that the global "co-relation of forces" had shifted in their favour. That is now not the case since the Soviet Union, its military systems apart, labours under a profound and endemic domestic crisis, only masked by the menace of its global military posture. Hope now springs from the technical feasibility of strategic defence, which could enable both sides to depart from what has been known as "the balance of terror" - the confrontation of offensive arsenals and mutual threat - to one in which security is based on the natural principle of defence.

President Reagan should thus postpone a repudiation of Salt 2 because there is no immediate need to play the Soviet Union at its own game. There will be time enough to tidy up the debased small print of arms control when the principle of strategic defence is fully accepted at Geneva. That is the ultimate test of Soviet good intention and Mr Reagan should not allow detailed manoeuvring to distract his public opinion, his allies or the Soviet leadership from that principle.

LE SCARGILLISME FRANÇAIS

Less than a year ago Communist ministers were still sitting in the French cabinet, although their party was visibly less and less happy with the government's policies - it was expected to support. At the local level Communists and Socialists are still working together in the administration of quite a number of French towns. Yet the bitterness of relations between the two parties has reached a level that has not been seen since the height of the cold war.

In France, it should be remembered the cold war was not entirely cold. In the autumn of 1947 the French Communists, who had been told by Stalin to regard themselves as partisans operating in enemy territory, did their best to paralyse France with a series of blatantly political strikes which in many places degenerated into violence. They were taken back by the firmness and vigour with which Socialist ministers reacted to this onslaught. One of them, Jules Moch, the interior minister, earned himself a secure place in left-wing demagoguery by expanding and deploying France's specialised riot police, the CRS (Compagnies Républicaines de Sécurité).

This week it began to seem as

if those days had come again. Early on Wednesday morning a "commando" of workers (mainly, it seems, municipal workers employed by Communist town councils), armed with bits of wood, catapults and ball-bearings, staged a surprise attack on a ball-bearing factory in the Paris suburb of Ivry which had been occupied by the police a week earlier after a 49-month sit-in by a hard core of trade unionists opposed to the Swedish parent company's decision to close it down. Seven hours of vicious fighting followed, in which 65 CRS and 34 "demonstrators" (if that is the right word) were injured. Among 68 of the latter arrested only one was found on identification to be an employee of the ball-bearing firm, SKF.

M Pierre Joxe, today's Socialist Minister of the Interior, has shown himself a worthy successor of Jules Moch - as the Communist newspaper *L'Humanité* was quick to point out. There is an absolute right to demonstrate in France," he told the National Assembly. "But the right to riot does not exist." Applause from the Socialist benches, and from some of those on the right. One Gaullist deputy, asked why he had not joined in the applause, replied

"you want me to applaud, when he's just taken 500,000 votes off us."

Since leaving the government, the Communist leadership has clearly renounced any prospect of returning to power in the next ten years and has decided to concentrate on reaffirming its identity and distancing itself as much as possible from the Socialists. It is essentially the same tactic that it adopted between 1977 and 1981, but with greater vigour and venom now that the Socialists are in power.

Where can such tactics lead? They are hardly vote-winners. In 1981 they actually helped M Mitterrand to power, by alienating some traditional Communist voters and also reassuring the floating centre that the Socialist candidate was anything but a fellow-traveller. So now they make the Socialist government's task a little easier, by discrediting its left-wing critics and making it appear a resolute guardian of "republican order" in the eyes of the centre and a part of the right. M Georges Marchais, the Communist leader, is the sort of opponent any government might wish for. He is the Arthur Scargill of the French labour movement.

THE STRASBOURG MARRIAGE

When asked in the Commons on Thursday what the Government propose to do about the immigration rules in the light of the Strasbourg sex discrimination judgement all Mr David Waddington was prepared to say was that the "primary purpose" rule would be kept. This is the requirement that foreign husbands and fiancés seeking to join their British wives or fiancées for settlement here must satisfy the immigration authorities that that is indeed the primary purpose of their application, not just a pretext for gaining admission. Two tests are written into the rules (though others are doubtless applied): that the parties to the marriage have met, and that both have the intention of living permanently together as spouses. Conditional entry may be granted for a year, in rare cases repeatable for another year, before right of settlement is granted.

The Government is right to hold on to this rule which is protection against evasion of the restrictions placed on new primary immigration for sound reasons of policy. It is also protection against abuse of the custom of arranged marriages as it is found in society on, or communities from, the Indian sub-continent. The rule is not in itself discriminatory either by sex or by race.

Home Office ministers have also said that since the United Kingdom subscribes to the European Convention on Human Rights, Strasbourg court

and all, they will respect the court's ruling. That implies, when put together with the decision to keep the primary purpose rule, that the rule will be extended to apply to wives and fiancées as well as husbands and fiancés. At present foreign wives and fiancées may be brought in by men with the right of abode here subject only to the much less intrusive qualification that they will be maintained and accommodated without recourse to public funds. To make them too subject to the primary purpose rule would be a tiresome and unnecessary extension of officialdom into private life, but if we choose to elevate equality of the sexes into a superior principle there is some price to pay.

It would however not be right to extend the primary purpose rule to the other sex just as it stands. The rule grants a qualified right to bring in for settlement a foreign husband or fiancé, but it grants the right only to women who are British citizens. It does not grant the right to women who are settled here but are not British citizens. In the case of men, on the other hand, who wish to bring in a foreign wife or fiancée, no distinction is made between British citizens and others who have a right of abode.

To introduce the distinction in their case in order to keep on the right side of Strasbourg would be to deprive a large number of men who are settled here of a right they now possess and one

that has been the subject of ministerial assurances over the years that it will not be withdrawn. These men have had the right of residence without time limit bestowed on them; they qualify for the same liberties as the rest of us, and that includes the liberty to marry and live as man and wife subject only to such restrictions as may be of general application.

If these changes were made the position would be that all men and all women with the right of abode in the United Kingdom would be entitled to introduce the wife/husband or fiancé(s) of their choice, and all would be subject to the same conditions in order to establish the bona fides of the arrangement and check evasion of the restrictions on primary immigration. In 1984 3,200 husbands, 1,360 fiancées and 4,280 fiancées were given leave to enter; 5,550 husbands and 16,670 wives were accepted for settlement (under half the husbands and well over half the wives coming from the New Commonwealth and Pakistan). So extension of the primary purpose rule across the board would mean a more than three fold increase in the number of checkings of bona fides, but not necessarily of the effort spent in it. Since the purpose is to prevent backdoor primary immigration, the practice could be more relaxed in the case of wives and fiancées - with an eye on Strasbourg of course lest it find fault with even that administrative variation.

Response to the Heysel tragedy

From Mr Michael Rose
Sir, Proposals to issue identity cards for soccer spectators could represent an unacceptable infringement of personal freedom. What will happen to the casual spectator, like myself, who enjoys visiting different football grounds and watching games between two teams, neither of which he supports?

Will he be barred from entering the ground for not possessing an identity card issued by either of the two competing clubs? Will he be just have to curtail his attendances to the local club's home and away games? And if he only attends a few games a year, will he be eligible to apply for a supporter's credential?

The implications for freedom of movement are momentous and must be carefully considered.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL ROSE,
118 Magdalen Street,
Colchester, Essex.

From the Chairman of the Institute for the Study of Conflict
Sir, Matches played in the morning would give less opportunity for drinking before the game. A kick-off time of, say, 10.30 am would not inconvenience away supporters whose travelling distance is small, e.g. for "local derbies" where passions often run high. I suggest that the police be given the power to stipulate morning matches when they see fit.

Yours faithfully,
FRANK BRENCHELEY, Chairman,
Institute for the Study of Conflict,
12-14 Golden Square, W1.

From Mr R. S. B. Miller
Sir, As a Scottish football supporter please may I dissociate myself from the tasteless and insensitive self-righteousness emerging in my country in the wake of the disaster in Brussels last week at the European Cup final.

The ban on English clubs should certainly have applied to Scottish (and probably Welsh) clubs. The fact that this has not happened means that there will be a feeling in Scotland that the problems of the past have been solved.

This is simply not true. As recently as 1981 there was a horrific pitch invasion at the Scottish Cup Final which miraculously did not result in any serious injuries but which might easily have done. There was also trouble at the recent Scotland/England game at Hampden Park.

Drunkness and vandalism before, and after, games are both widespread, and the fact is that the recent changes in laws have simply meant that the problems are not focused in one focus but rather dispersed throughout various areas of the city.

It will only be a matter of time before these people wreak havoc in some European capital, causing further disgrace. Furthermore, they may be joined by English bootleggers pretending to be Scottish fans.

Commentators who refer to a "British disease" are right, and the danger of a repetition of last week's events in Brussels will not be avoided until there is a British solution.

Yours faithfully,
R. S. B. MILLER,
21 Queen's Crescent,
Newington, Edinburgh.

Unbuckling the Belt

From Mr Tony Paterson
Sir, Roger Humber's subtle article (May 18) should not deflect the Government's resolve to keep the Green Belt inviolate in the South-east and elsewhere. Counting his breezlocks and bulldozers in a sugar-layer of spurious electoral advantage to the Government, he contends that "...the cost of defending this land is continued unemployment".

Electoral calamity for the Tories would be a likelier result of permitting substantial encroachment on Green Belt land in the South-east. Any oblique beneficial spin-off on the jobs front would be far outweighed. Patrick Jenkin knows the after-experiencing the popular revolt occasioned by his two draft circulars (both hastily withdrawn), that the Green Belt was "up for grabs". It was "like standing on the wrong end of a rake", he later candidly admitted.

The error then was momentarily to forget that the power-house of development in the South-east is the suburbs, where Green Belt matters most. A host of the South-east's Conservative MPs, freshly alerted to the danger by the Alliance's advances in this month's county council elections, can be expected to step in again, as they did last time, if the Government lets siren voices like Mr Humber's lead it astray again.

Tory economic record

From Professor Wynne Godley
Sir, According to your leader, "Foundations for stability" (June 3), most "conventional statistics" other than those for unemployment show that "the British economy is working better than it has done for 15 or 20 years". This provocative claim is based on reports that output and orders are at record levels and that employment has grown 600,000 since the last election.

'Lack of vision' on higher education

From Professor T. M. F. Smith and Dr I. Diamond

Sir, The recent Green Paper on the Development of Higher Education into the 1990s is a bitterly disappointing document. It discusses financial resources rather than policy options and lacks entirely the vision of its predecessors such as Robbins and Beveridge. The framework for the discussion of resources is set down in paragraph 9.9, headed "Future public funding and planning for the longer term", which starts with the sentence: "Present projections suggest that there will be a substantial fall in student numbers in the 1990s". The projections referred to are "Variant Y" of those produced by the Department of Education and Science in their *Report on Education 100*.

While recognising that all projections depend on a set of assumptions, all serious commentators, including the Royal Society and the Royal Statistical Society, have criticised these projections on the grounds that the assumptions upon which they are based are consistently pessimistic.

The underlying theme of the Government's projections is that the demand for higher education in the 1990s will follow the trend in the 18-year old population and will thus decline steadily until 1994 after which there will be a small increase. There are two grounds on which this can be challenged.

First, there was a steady expansion in higher education in the late 1960s, a period characterized by a decline in the 18-year old population similar to that to be experienced in the next ten years.

Second, demand for higher education varies widely between different subgroups of the population, defined by factors such as sex, social class and age. In order to forecast demand successfully, it is necessary to consider both the future numbers in these subgroups and the trends in their levels of participation in higher education.

Cloud over costs

From Professor Martin Christopher
Sir, The rising trend in inflation has once more evoked the predictable response that cost increases in general and wage increases in particular must be kept as low as possible. Once more we hear that we are pricing ourselves out of overseas markets.

Whilst this may be partly true it tends to cloud the real issue. Firstly, prices tend to be governed by the market, not by suppliers' costs, and secondly, customers are always prepared to pay more for products that they may perceive to embody added value.

If anything the problem is that we still feel that we should be the lowest cost producers when in reality this is a position we could never attain. Instead we should seek to be the highest added-value producers, a position far more in keeping with our skills and inventiveness.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN CHRISTOPHER,
Cranfield School of Management,
Cranfield Institute of Technology,
Cranfield,
Bedfordshire,
May 22.

The Government's bold and electrifying Green Belt policy of one-inch is about to face its first major challenge - at Tillingham Hall, near Thurrock in Essex, where Consortium Developments Limited has just unveiled its plan to build in the Green Belt Britain's first private new town for almost 100 years (one of 15 around London, if the consortium gets its way).

David Owen, in a speech at Plymouth on May 14, has already tossed down the gauntlet about this proposal. The Government should define this clear of the rebounding rake this time. Instead, it should link up the need (rightly identified by Mr Humber) for new building land in the South-east with its 1983 manifesto pledge that "We shall promote the revival of our inner cities".

In practice, this means having a regional plan for the South-east (the Government, surprisingly, has none at present). It means revamping derelict land grants and urban aid grant to make urban private sector housing schemes more attractive to developers. It means building on the success of the London Docklands Development Corporation and activating the Government's neglected powers, created by a 1980 Act, to dispose compulsorily, of unused public land.

Yours faithfully,
TONY PATERSON,
76 Lansdale Road,
Barnes, SW13,
May 20.

It was less than half that achieved in any six-year period between 1948 and 1974.

There is only cosmetic significance in measuring the growth since the trough in 1981. Would it make our present performance a better one if the 1979 deflation had been more savage and the 1981 trough, in consequence, deeper?

Neither manufacturing output nor investment are at anything like record levels; they are both a long way below 1979 and net investment in manufacturing has on balance been negative taking the period as a whole. Order books were much higher than now in 1973, the last boom year. Employment may have risen 600,000 since the last election but it is not at a record level; it is 1.2 million lower than in 1979.

Prices are at a record level but their rate of growth is, for the time being, down to 7 per cent compared with 10 per cent in the first half of 1979 when the Conservative government came to power. This is not a

While the Government projections do make some allowance for these trends, the assumptions they make are, at the very least, questionable.

In particular they assume that the upward occupational mobility which has been a feature of the labour force in the last twenty years, will virtually cease and that the steady increase in female participation will level off at its 1983 level. The information on which the former assumption is based is very limited while that for the latter is non-existent.

If female participation in England and Wales were to continue to rise over the next 10 years to the levels already achieved in Scotland, and in line with international trends, demand would increase by around 50,000 students. This factor alone eliminates almost entirely the Government's projected decline of 70,000 students.

Is higher education policy really to be based on the premise that well qualified students by the standards of the early 1980s should be denied places in higher education and it is really suggested that society in the 1990s will require fewer well qualified graduates?

We would like to see the issue of the demand for higher education removed from discussions of higher education policy with the recognition that demand at the 1983 level can be maintained throughout the rest of this century and that, at the very least, that number of places should be provided.

Policy discussions would then be free to focus on the cultural, social and economic role of higher education in the society we envisage in the 1990s rather than on trivial issues such as the number of sabbatical officers in students' unions.

Yours faithfully,
T. M. F. SMITH,
IAN DIAMOND,
University of Southampton,
Department of Social Statistics,
Southampton,
Hampshire,
May 30.

Strasbourg law

From Mr Geoffrey Rippon, QC, MP for Hexham (Conservative)

Sir, My parliamentary colleague, Mr Fred Silver, makes some interesting points in his letter (June 4) on the decisions of the European Court of Human Rights but avoids the main cause of difficulty. Unlike other signatories of the Convention we have so far failed to incorporate it into our domestic law. This means that for British citizens recourse to the European Court of Human Rights is the first instead of the last resort. No doubt this was because at the time the Churchill government ratified the Convention in 1951 we overthought we would ever be guilty of a breach of human rights.

As things now stand British judges are deprived of the right to interpret the Convention and the European Court correspondingly deprived of the benefit of their views. We should take the necessary steps without further delay to meet the Convention's requirement that every individual whose rights are violated should have "an effective remedy before a national authority".

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY RIPPON,
House of Commons,
June 4.

Kites in peril

From Mr Richard Porter
Sir, In his letter (June 1) Mr Alan Morris recommends the spraying of kite eggs with an indelible dye to render them valueless and easily identified.

The RSPB has for many years marked eggs of a number of species in a variety of ways both as an aid to preventing their being taken and towards their later detection, the taking of eggs being an illegal activity. For what hope are obvious reasons it would be unwise to give details of the methods employed, but all are subjected to investigation before they are used and several have to be rejected because many chemical dyes are toxic to eggs.

Thus, I very much hope readers will not be inspired by Mr Morris to go and spray eggs to prevent their being taken. Apart from it being illegal to interfere with any rare breeding birds (i.e. those listed on schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act) without a licence from the Nature Conservancy Council such interference, however well intentioned, could actually end up doing the birds a disservice.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD PORTER,
Head of Species Protection,
The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds,
The Lodge,
Sandy,
Bedfordshire,
June 3.

remarkable improvement bearing in mind the sacrifices which have been made to achieve it.

An ominous further indication that the economy is not "working" well is that the balance of trade excluding oil is £10 bn worse than in 1979, even though we have grown so little. So although there is a huge surplus on trade in oil our balance of payments is not far from zero while unemployment is a record 3.2 million and rising.

Taking everything together the conventional statistics tell a grim story. They should be causing the Government and its supporters to think hard about the very grave strategic issues now facing the country, not to congratulate themselves.

Yours faithfully,
WYNNE GODLEY,
University of Cambridge,
Department of Applied Economics,
Sidgwick Avenue,
Cambridge,
June 5.

ON THIS DAY

JUNE 8 1931

The first Parliament of Northern Ireland was opened on June 7 in the council chamber of Belfast City Hall; it is now accommodated in a new building at Stormont, Belfast. The first prime minister was Sir James Craig, later Viscount Craigavon, (1871-1960) who held that office until his death. Since 1972 Northern Ireland has been under direct rule from Westminster.

The Ulster Parliament.

The House of Commons of Northern Ireland held its first sitting yesterday. As was expected, none of the Nationalist or Sinn Féin members attended. MAJOR HUGH O'NEILL was elected Speaker, and the Prime Minister, Sir JAMES CRAIG, announced the composition of the Ministry. It is a carefully-chosen Cabinet, in which the majority of Ulstermen will have full confidence. Later in the day Sir JAMES CRAIG announced that the King has consented formally to open the Parliament on June 22. Thus a new era has opened in the history of Ireland. Dark though the immediate outlook is, the establishment of this Parliament is a long and irrevocable step in the right direction. The partition of Ireland has always been regarded as a disastrous expedient by those who believe, as we believe, that Irish peace can only be lasting if it is established upon the basis of Irish unity; but, under the conditions that have prevailed since the Irish Convention, it had become an essential preliminary to such unity. In the Convention JOHN REDMOND made a statesman's bid for settlement by offering Irish Unionists a virtual equality of representation with the majority of the Ulstermen in a single Parliament. But he failed; and since his death Sinn Féin has attempted to ignore the problem which he had sought to solve. Its leaders have consistently disregarded, or made light of, the shared and determined will of Ulster. They have abandoned conciliation for threats and sought to bend Ulster to their will by an economic boycott, applying to her that very conciliation against which they have so loudly protested. Their own case, by such methods they only succeeded in rendering partition inevitable. It was a policy foredoomed to disaster, for Sinn Féin, like the party that preceded them in power, have no escape from the dilemma that a united Ireland is only possible if Southern Ireland be prepared to stand in a relationship to Great Britain which Ulster can accept. Nearly two years ago we urged that the true solution of the Irish problem lay in the establishment of a new Legislature, with a linking Assembly formed of representatives of both, which should be susceptible of development into a central Parliament with wide powers. We believed then, and we still believe, that this would solve the social and economic problems which make for an Irish union brought fully into play. Very wisely the Government constructed their Act in accordance with this principle. They have made terrible mistakes in their Irish policy and administration, but this was not one of them. Now their scheme is in operation, and, in this particular, it has already, to some extent, been justified. The Ulster Unionists proved the strength of Ulster Unionism. They have shown that the significance of this result by directing charges of intimidation against the Ulster Unionists, but every reasoning Sinn Féin must know that the political situation in Ireland has been profoundly and irreversibly changed. Stifling to their past and present policy though it be, Sinn Féin can no longer maintain the pretence that the opposition of Ulster Unionism to their claims is a negligible element in the Irish situation. The Ulster Unionists stand at last face to face with reality. It may, indeed, be long before her appreciation of the truth is confessed or finds expression in a change of attitude. It would be foolish, for instance, to regard the recent meeting between Sir JAMES CRAIG and Mr DE VALERA as more than a hopeful omen, and much time may still elapse before a real will to peace is evident in Ireland. Those to whom the destinies of the South have been committed are still swayed by reckless counsels. Yet a faith well founded upon the unchangeable facts of the Irish situation can discern in yesterday's proceedings at Belfast the beginning of a process which, if it is not abandoned, will ultimately achieve an Irish peace.

Faith in democracy

From Professor C. E. V. Lester

Sir, Roy Hattersley, and presumably the leadership of the Labour Party, seems to have a strange idea of democracy. Electors do not vote for a party because they fully subscribe to its manifesto, but because they have reasonable confidence in the party.

Say three parties attract a roughly equal number of votes, but the electoral system gives one party more seats than either of the others. Which is then more democratic: to be governed by one party in which one third of the voters have confidence, or by a coalition in which two thirds of the voters have confidence?

Yours faithfully,
C. E. V. LESTER,
14 St. Chad's Avenue,
Leeds West Yorkshire,
June 2.

Dressing down

From Mr James Badenoch

Sir, My experience of conducting jury trials has shown that Mr Lord's list (June 4) of specialised equipment for securing a challenge (pin-stripe suit, haughty mien etc) omits the one item which when used either in combination with the others or by itself, effectively assures removal from the jury box.

My colleagues at the Bar will know at once that I refer to a copy of *The Daily Telegraph*, neatly folded (not stuffed into the jacket pocket) and carried in such a way as to ensure its prompt identification before the juror is sworn.

The reasons why the challenge secured by the use of that newspaper comes always from a defending counsel and why use of your newspaper, Sir, fails to inspire the same response are matters upon which I have often reflected but prefer not to speculate.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES BADENOCH,
1 Crown Office Row,
Temple, E.C.4.

THE TIMES

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Now let's thrash out fair City dealing

Now that the bones of the new stock market structure have been agreed, despite the sidish rebellion by some Stock Exchange members this week, the attention of investors, practitioners, legislators and signed-up regulators should turn to the thorny question of how to protect investors under the new, more free-wheeling system.

It has long been acknowledged that new and important problems are bound to arise from abolishing the separation of brokers and jobbers in different firms, not to mention the wider tie-ups of these hybrid firms with banks and large-scale fund management companies. The built-in protection, far from merely theoretical, though taken for granted, will go. What will replace it, and, given the weakness of human nature, will it work?

Most of the noise so far has come in the form of bleating about unnecessary disclosure and expense by those most likely to benefit from the changes. Much more light was to be gleaned from a speech by the Tory MP Tim Eggar this week to an Institute of International Research seminar a mile or so to the west of the City.

Mr Eggar clearly feels that the new firms will need to embrace new market practices with more enthusiasm than seems likely at present, and fears that the new structure of supervised, statutorily-based self-regulation outlined in Norman Tebbit's White Paper on Financial Services in January will prove to have more holes than have yet been discovered.

As Mr Eggar points out, one of the new conglomerates such as Barclays de Zoete Wedd, Warburg, Rowe & Pitman Akroyd or the Citibank group can at the same time be banker to a company, raise long-term debt or equity, make a market in the securities involved, retail them to investors and buy them as managers of discretionary funds.

The White Paper suggests that the best way to protect clients from the possible conflicts of interest involved is through following the rules for the conduct of business outlined in Chapter 7 of the White Paper. This is, in effect, based on three principles: That "Chinese walls of silence" between different sections of a firm cannot be relied on and that principles of getting the best deal for the client, supported by disclosure of information to clients to enable them to judge if this is happening, offer the rest rule.

As drafted, some of the rules would certainly reduce the benefits and synergy of the new conglomerates, particularly the

suggested rule that, if a firm buys and sells shares for a client for its own account, it must offer a better price than obtainable elsewhere in the market. In this case, it might be fair, as BZW has argued, that a price equal to the best obtainable would be enough, though out, as Rowe & Pitman suggests in its comments this week, that market makers should be excluded from this provision.

If any such concessions on rules are to be made to the new powerful firms, an even greater emphasis needs to be laid on disclosing information to clients automatically, whether about the firm's role, its special knowledge or the exact price and time of dealing.

BZW is worried about the problems of disclosing its role. Rowe & Pitman argues against the need to stamp contract notes with the time of execution of an order (though records would be available). This is, to say the least, not as positive a line as they might take. In the end these firms are going to face a choice. Either they make disclosures which they find tedious, costly and unnecessary, or they are going to face tighter direct controls to separate their functions again. Disclosure is surely preferable.

The carping that is already evident - and it would be quite unfair to think this is confined to those who have had the courage to put their thoughts on paper - also supports Mr Eggar's fears that firms are likely to take a much more legalistic approach to rules in their competitive new world.

The trouble with the new supervisory framework, apart from the temporary separation of the two top tier bodies, is that the operative day-to-day regulators are bodies that are assumed to have the skills, experience and authority of the Stock Exchange Council, but in many cases exist yet only on paper. We may be asking too much of them. That is especially the case if firms used to the legalistic approach of the United States, or to an unregulated atmosphere in, say, commodity markets here, are not willing to bend their behaviour to quiet nods and winks on which Stock Exchange and Bank of England have traditionally relied. Mr Eggar fears this is inevitable and will lead, equally inevitably, to a legalistic body here like the Securities & Exchange Commission and the rich pickings for lawyers that would bring it. If it does come to this, it will, for once, be the fault of practitioners rather than Whitehall or the rule-makers in the City.

Timely link for Sedgwick

The galaxy of senior City banking and investment talent who lunched with James Harvey and boardroom colleagues on Thursday left no doubt of the significant role Transamerica Corporation is expected to play on this side of the Atlantic - and not only through its new association with Sedgwick Group. When financial services is the name of the game Transamerica is bound to be a major force.

The timing of the link with Sedgwick is as good as the logic. As Mr Harvey observed, "rates are beginning to turn in the United States. We shall have a good year this year and the future is quite bright".

Sedgwick, which will have its own form of protection in the shape of Transamerica's 39 per cent stake, can assuredly grow faster and more profitably in the United States in alliance with Fred S. James, whose strength lies there. Conversely, James' United Kingdom business, based on Wigham Poland, will join a bigger league when Wigham Poland is integrated with Sedgwick. Mr Harvey's ambition to see Sedgwick James become "the premier brokerage business in the world" could

well be realized. It will be away to a flying start on July 1 when Sedgwick shareholders approve the merger with James to create the second largest broking group after Marsh & McLennan.

James is forecasting a 60 per cent increase in its dollar earnings, which does not look unrealistic in present conditions. Premium rates are hardening because underwriters have begun turning away unprofitable and risky business. This is precisely the kind of environment which favours the big brokers with the muscle to place difficult business.

Under the terms of the deal Transamerica will gain a 39 per cent equity interest in Sedgwick, but only a 29.9 per cent voting right. There are restrictions on increasing its interest. Transamerica, which bought James only four years ago, has widespread insurance interests in the US, including property and casualty and life insurance. It will gain not only a wider outlet for some of its life insurance products but the possibility of a turn on its holding in the combined broking group. It may not, however, sell more than 10 per cent of its holding for the next four years.

Hong Kong takes over failed bank as share prices dive

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

The Hong Kong Government stepped in yesterday to take over the failed Overseas Trust Bank (OTB) after a day of turmoil in the colony's financial markets which saw share prices record their biggest fall for 3½ years.

The decision to bail out the OTB was taken at an emergency session of the colony's policy-making Executive Council. Legislation was being rushed through last night to allow the bank to reopen for business on Monday morning.

Before news of the rescue, anxious investors had watched as shares in the Hong Kong market tumbled. The Hang Seng index closed 86.95 points down yesterday at 1,542.55 and

London dealers later reported volatile dealings in Hong Kong shares. There were also reports in Hong Kong of customers withdrawing money from other small banks.

It is the second time in less than two years that the Hong Kong Government has had to rescue a bank. In 1983 it took over Hang Lung Bank. The OTB, with assets of about HK\$10 billion (£1 billion) and 144 local branches, is considerably bigger and its collapse comes at an unfortunate moment.

Confidence in Hong Kong's economy had been slowly reviving since the future of the

colony was resolved last year and this was reflected in the steady rise in share prices. The OTB's failure is likely to reawaken concerns about the efficacy of banking supervision in Hong Kong as well as proving costly for the taxpayer.

Sir John Brembridge, financial secretary, said the rescue could cost the government HK\$2 billion. He justified it on the grounds that confidence in the Hong Kong dollar is at stake. The government was also concerned to protect the bank's 100,000 depositors and head off further problems in the banking system.

Sir John said the failure appeared to involve hundreds of millions of Hong Kong

dollars. A criminal investigation has been set in train and charges have been brought against three people.

Shares in Hongkong Industrial and Commercial Bank (HICB) which is 62 per cent owned by the OTB is among the 10 biggest banks in Hong Kong and the fourth largest of the quoted banks. Mr Douglas Bye, secretary for monetary affairs in Hong Kong, has been named new chairman of the OTB.

The Hong Kong dollar held fairly steady on the foreign exchange markets yesterday, although dealers said it might have been supported by official intervention. It closed in London at HK\$9.86 to the pound, down from HK\$9.89.

Work starts on British Gas sale

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

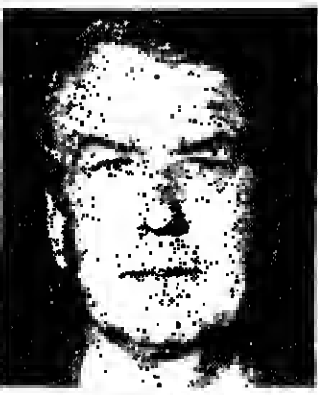
The Department of Energy has put two teams to work on the legislation and regulatory proposals for the sale of British Gas next year.

They will work throughout the summer on the detailed proposals which the Government is to place before Parliament in October or November to enable the sale to go ahead in the early summer of next year at a price of around £8 billion.

The extent of the regulatory controls that the Government wants to retain over the industry will determine the final price that the City puts on the corporation.

The desire of the Secretary of State for Energy, Mr Peter Walker, for a smooth passage for Whitehall's biggest privatization project yet has led him to put his former personal private secretary, Mr Michael Reidy, in charge of drafting those controls.

Preventing the private gas corporation from abusing its considerable monopoly powers



Peter Walker: setting wheels in motion

will be the main function of a new regulatory body, which will be largely modelled on OfTel, the body set up to monitor the telecommunications industry after the sale of British Telecom.

However, there have also been suggestions that because of the present strict legal controls on British Gas and because of its potential cash flow, any future "Ofgas" will be backed

by a team of accountants from the private sector.

Mr Reidy, who played an important role in the Energy Secretary's handling of the miners' strike, will also have to consider such issues as whether British Gas's statutory right of entry to private homes to ensure safety could be extended to a private company.

The present role of the Gas Consumer Council will have to be accommodated within the new regulations, and the question of whether British Gas's successful energy conservation programme should be continued by the new private owners must be decided.

Fielding, Newson-Smith, the stockbroker, has advised clients that despite any pricing regulations imposed by the new regulatory body the private gas corporation will be in a very strong commercial position.

It says that British Gas will have a totally different investment appeal to the other two leading energy companies, BP and Shell, emphasizing BGC's "unique strength: its insulation from a fall in the oil price".

Opec may follow UAE price cut

By our Energy Correspondent

The prospect of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries announcing an official cut in its world oil price structure at the end of this month has become more likely with the announcement yesterday that the United Arab Emirates is cutting prices and offering extended credit to customers.

The UAE, through its oil minister, Dr Mana Saad Otaiba, has been consistently among Opec's more conservative voices in calling for joint efforts to stabilize world oil prices.

By announcing a 55-cent-a-barrel cut yesterday in its main medium grades to around \$27.55, the UAE has done no more than respond to the realities of the market but it is likely to lead to a chain of similar official cuts from neighbours such as Kuwait and even Saudi Arabia.

The extension of credit for its oil from 45 days to 75 days is also an effective discount for customers. The cut also reflects a split within the UAE itself as the oil whose price is being cut is from Abu Dhabi which has seen production suffer because fellow UAE member Dubai has been over-producing.

New Bunzl bid rejected

By Cliff Feltham

Brammer, the engineering group, last night scorned a £154 million takeover bid from the paper making group Bunzl - a £15 million increase on its earlier offer.

The chairman of Brammer, Mr John Head, said: "Nothing has changed. We still reject the bid. We are totally antagonistic towards going down market with Bunzl - commercially we cannot live with the thought."

He will be writing to shareholders this weekend urging them to dismiss the new terms and forecasting a substantial increase on last year's profits of

£10.2 million - perhaps to close on £12 million, according to some analysts.

In the meantime Brammer is going ahead with a special meeting next Friday to obtain shareholders' approval for a £44 million takeover bid of its own, for Energy Services and Electronics.

Bunzl says its offer, which is final, will be dropped if this deal is approved.

Bunzl's new terms are 72 shares and £108 of 7 per cent convertible loan stock for every 100 Brammer shares. The cash alternative goes up to 420p.

IN BRIEF

Argentine debt deal

Argentina is on the point of announcing an agreement with the International Monetary Fund on a new economic programme, an Economy Ministry spokesman said yesterday. President Raúl Alfonsín said that Argentina had managed to secure a bridging loan.

Intensive discussions were under way in Washington yesterday to cobble together a package for Argentina before Monday when US bank regulators are due to discuss whether to downgrade Argentine debts. Downgrading would threaten new loans for Argentina and undermine attempts to sort out its \$49 billion (£39 billion) debts.

Washington sources confirmed yesterday that progress was being made towards a deal. The US Treasury is believed to be involved with other Latin American and European governments in a \$450 million bridging loan, conditional on an IMF agreement.

Bank review

The Bank of England is to include loan facilities, acceptance and foreign exchange and interest rate swaps in a wide-ranging review of the fast-growing off-balance sheet business which banks have been carrying out. A tougher supervisory approach to off-balance sheet risks was foreseen by the Bank of England's announcement in April on note issuance and revolving underwriting facilities.

Legislation will not be necessary for the Government to achieve its aim of privatizing Rolls-Royce, the state-owned aero-engine manufacturer, the Department of Trade and Industry said yesterday. The Times reported earlier this week the department's view that legislation would be needed, but a spokesman admitted that this information has been given in error.

£86m cash call

English China Clays has launched an £86.3 million rights issue and revealed a \$100 million facility in the US. Interim profits were up from £22.4 million on sales of £334 million against £265 million. The interim dividend has been raised to 4p (3.6p).

Campus, page 12

Ladbroke boost

The chairman of Ladbroke, Mr Cyril Stein, told shareholders that trading during the first five months of the year had been highly satisfactory. The shares rose 2p to 268p.

US jobless

The US unemployment rate was unchanged at a seasonally adjusted 7.3 per cent last month.

BROWN SHIPLEY

-HIGH INCOME FUND-

1% DISCOUNT UNTIL 30th JUNE

LAST YEAR WE WERE NUMBER ONE.

We've just declared a High Income Fund interim dividend of 1.18 pence. That's a massive 14.6% over our performance for the same period last year.

A 14.6% improvement on income growth, comfortably outpacing inflation, from a fund that topped Planned Savings charts for the best performing Mixed Income Fund for 1984 and has grown 17.5% in the last 12 months.

Hardly surprising. As the unit trust arm of a merchant bank known for its

investment expertise since 1810, Brown Shipley Fund Management has consistently performed above the indices.

True, the value of units and the income from them can go down as well as up. But we believe that our High Income Fund will continue to provide investors with high income and capital growth.

Units are currently 54.3p offer price as at 7.6.85.

Estimated gross current yield is 6.45%.

To capitalise on that opportunity simply send us the coupon below.

THIS YEAR OUR INVESTORS ARE ALREADY 14.6% BETTER OFF

PROFIT FROM OUR EXPERIENCE

GENERAL INFORMATION
Applications will be acknowledged by contract note and unit certificate will be issued within 6 weeks. Prices of units and gross yields are quoted daily in the national press. Units may be sold back at any time at the bid price ruling on receipt of your repurchase certificate, and payment will normally be made within 7 working days. An initial charge of 5% is included in the offer price. An annual charge of 4% plus VAT of the capital value of the Fund is deducted from the gross income of the Fund to delay management expenses. The Trust deeds permit a maximum annual charge of 14.9% subject to 3 months notice. Subject to this annual charge, and net of base rate tax, income is payable to unit holders on May 1st and November 1st each year. Commission is paid to qualified intermediaries. Rates are available on request. The managers are Brown Shipley Fund Management Ltd, Rockwood House, 9/17 Pennyroyal Road, Haywards Heath, W Sussex RH16 1TA. Telephone 0444 4584. This offer is not available to residents of the Republic of Ireland.

Block Letters Please (Please state Mr., Mrs., Miss or Title).

Forenames _____

Surname _____

Address _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Westland white knight 'at hand'

By Our City Staff

Westland, the troubled helicopter company, says that a move from a "white knight" should be expected shortly, at least before the extended closing date for acceptances of the contested £89 million takeover bid by Mr Alan Bristow's new company, Bristow Rotorcraft.

Schroder Wagg, Westland's merchant bank, says it was not surprised that Bristow obtained only about 30 per cent of Westland at close of play on Thursday night.

It has always been sceptical of Mr Bristow's claims for a near 40 per cent stake in the company, arguing that the managers of some of the institutional holdings might not accept his offer.

Mr Bristow said that the founding investors in his new company including Kleinwort Benson, his merchant bank, Hoare Govett, the stockbroker, and Montagu Investment Management, among others, have a 20.02 per cent stake in Westland and holders of 9.05 per cent of this stock accepted his offer on Thursday.

Westland will have to make a move before the extended closing date, on June 20. If shareholders see no action soon they are more likely to take Mr Bristow's offer, but he has not stated June 20 is the final closing date.

Japan warned over Turkish contract

From Edward Tinsand, Tokyo

A new row between Britain and Japan over a £400 million Bosphorus bridge contract is likely to erupt if Britain's Cleveland Bridge Company fails to win a significant share of the project.

This was clear in Tokyo yesterday by Mr Geoffrey Pattie, Minister of State for Industry, who said that relations between Britain and Japan could turn sour if the

main contractors for the Turkish project - won by Japan with what is claimed to be an unfair level of state aid - did not place sub-contract work in Britain.

Cleveland Bridge submitted the lowest tender to build the bridge, but the Government would not match Japan's aid.

Mr Nakasone, the Japanese Prime Minister, has written to Mrs Thatcher, explaining the

Japanese position. Mr Pattie, who is in Japan to promote investment in Britain, said the letter would remain confidential.

Britain has matched a Belgian offer of aid worth up to £21 million in support of a Leyland Bus consortium's bid for a £365 million contract to supply the Bangkok Mass Transit Authority with 4,500 buses and other facilities.

MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

FT Ind Ord	1,001.6 (-6.0)
FT All Share	634.86 (-4.84)
FT Govt Securities	81.81 (-0.02)
FT SE 100	1,310.6 (-11.4)
Bargains	20.87
Dataseam USM	107.88 (-0.48)
New York Dow Jones	1,321.88 (-5.80)
Nikkei Dow	12,718 (+0.48)
Hong Kong Hang Seng	1,542.55 (-88.95)
Sydney AO	852.2 (-0.1)
Amsterdam	214.5 (+0.9)
Frankfurt Commerzbank	1383.4 (+27.6)
Brussels General	383.54 (+0.34)
Paris CAC	291.3 (-0.8)
Zurich SKA General	378.60 (+1.8)

GOLD

London fixing	am \$315.00 pm \$314.30
close	\$314.25-\$314.75
24hr	248.20
New York	286.20
Comex	\$315.15

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES:	
Brammer	406 +48
GW Sparrow	51 +4
Jonas Woodhead	36 +5
Our Price	585 +25
Imperial Group	194 +6
LCP Holdings	120 +4
Satchel and Satchel	715 +20
Blue Arrow	198 +12
Vesper	305 +17
Chas Sharpe	255 +20
Piccadilly Radio	24 +1
Milford Dock	82 +4
Cole Group	186 +4

FALLS:

English China Clays	253 -10
Bunzl	468 -12
Energy Services	109 -6
Coolson Group	373 -10
RMC Group	374 -8
Oxford Instrument	273 -3
Davy Corporation	108 -6
Standard Telephones	150 -10
Thorne-EMI	448 -15
Kwik Save	202 -8
DRG	180 -6
Owen Owen	285 -20
Standard Chartered Bank	454 -13

CURRENCIES

London:	
£: \$1.2680 (-0.0027)	
DM: 3.9074 (+0.0259)	
Sfr: 3.2890 (+0.0240)	
FF: 11.9025 (+0.0665)	
S: 516.35 (+1.05)	
Index: 79.3 (+0.1)	
New York:	
£: \$1.2680	
DM: 3.9010	
Index: 145.8 (+0.7)	
ECU: 20.574532	
SDR: 60.785127	

INTEREST RATES

London:	
Bank Base:	12½-12½%
3-month Interbank:	12½-12½%
3-month eligible bills:	12-11½%
buying rate	
US:	
Prime Rate:	10.00%
Federal Funds:	7½%
3-month Treasury Bills:	7¼-7¼%
Long bond:	106½%-106½%

FAMILY MONEY/1

Share pushers
anger
City broker

Capel-Cure Myers, the City stockbroker, has come out with some strong advice to his clients about how to combat the "revolving" habits of some Antwerp-based businessmen. These salesmen have been "cold-calling" Capel's clients and urging them to buy shares in what Capel calls an "obscure Canadian gold mine". In some cases this has been followed by the arrival of unwanted contract notes, showing that shares have been bought when no order was placed.

The right way to deal with such calls, says Capel, is to say loudly that you have no interest whatsoever in the shares, that the salesman must not attempt to contact you again - and then hang up.

Alternatively, you could "try to sell him that junk stock clock that great-aunt Gladys gave you for a wedding present 15 years ago, and you haven't dared to throw away". This technique, Capel insists, works well.

On another note, the stockbroker warns that the wider share ownership so much desired by the Government could lead to serious abuses. While not against the principle, Capel says that unless there are adequate safeguards against the selling of dud shares by highly-trained, well-paid and highly-unsupervised salesmen, there could be chaos and misery among investors.

Multi-journey
insurance scheme

Business travellers should note an improved travel insurance scheme from Royal Insurance, called Business Travellers, the scheme is a considerable simplification of many types of travel insurance.

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Gresham double

Another insurance company has entered the direct unit trust investment market. Gresham Life, which has offered unit-linked policies since the 1970s, has launched a single unit in any category costs £105 a year while for worldwide travel it costs £130 a year.

On another note, the stockbroker warns that the wider share ownership so much desired by the Government could lead to serious abuses. While not against the principle, Capel says that unless there are adequate safeguards against the selling of dud shares by highly-trained, well-paid and highly-unsupervised salesmen, there could be chaos and misery among investors.

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CTT uncertainty

Now that the dust has settled after the Budget with little change in capital transfer tax, those interested in CTT mitigation may find a report by tax consultants Parmenter Arthur useful. The report covers the varieties of off-the-peg inheritance trusts and similar schemes currently on offer from a wide range of insurance companies. The two authors of the report, Peter Legg and David Parker, are ex-employees of the Inland Revenue's Capital Taxes Office.

They not only describe the schemes in detail but analyse their effectiveness and desirability. Their main conclusion is that setting up an inheritance trust in which you make a loan, repaid to you over a number of years, is the best and safest method. It is also the most common scheme available.

Inheritance trusts where the loan is reversed are found to be less satisfactory, because they may be seen by the Revenue as artificial. Bottom of the list come the discounted loan schemes, which are increasing rapidly in popularity because of a feeling that the Revenue has not stamped them out yet it probably never will.

That sort of complacency, say the authors, is unwarranted. The Revenue

may still move against them, causing complications for many people. The report costs £20 from Parmenter Arthur, 7 The Walrus, St Ives, Huntingdon, Cambs, PE17 4BY.

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Retirement plan

Sun Life Assurance of Canada has launched a unit-linked executive retirement plan which it says is as portable as present legislation permits. Premiums can be paid into the scheme on a monthly, yearly or lump sum basis. Members can opt for early retirement or continue contributing until the age of 75 if they have not actually retired, but they have to state at the outset at what age they expect to retire.

Aimed at smaller businesses, Sun Life of Canada will take on most of the administrative work connected with pension plans. It offers a choice of eight unit-linked funds in which schemes can be invested, and offers a business loan of up to 50 per cent of the value of units credited to the directors of a

company, which could be helpful in easing temporary cash-flow problems. While offering considerable flexibility, the scheme naturally depends on the performance of the underlying funds. These tend to have been solid if not spectacular. The Managed Fund, for example has achieved a return of £1,131 over the past year, on £1,000 invested. The average managed fund produced £1,119.

The three Property shops are in stores at Elmwood Park, Bradford and Wakefield. They will appear in other Asda stores over the next few years if the initial experiment is successful. As well as offering property services including advice on mortgages, the Property shops will help with other matters like insurance, pensions and investment.

The rise in building society investment rates continues. Among those to improve their offers this week were the Lloyds and the Yorkshire Building Society. Lloyds has increased its Magnum account by 0.25 per cent, giving a net rate of 11.14 per cent.

Though this is higher than most building society accounts, six weeks' notice is required and no interest is paid during the notice period. A £500 minimum investment is necessary. Lloyds has also raised its six-month notice account by 0.3 per cent to a net rate of 11.09 per cent.

The North of England has increased its two-year Maximum Yield term shares to

give a net rate of 10.75 per cent. This is 2.5 per cent above the society's ordinary share rate.

One of the City's oldest merchant banks has launched an offshore "roll-up" fund designed for corporate and institutional investors. Barings is putting on offer from June 19 shares in the Barings Currency Fund, to be managed by Barings Fund Managers in Guernsey.

The fund is offering shares in sterling, US dollars, Deutschmarks and yen with no initial charge. A management fee of 0.75 per cent a year will be reduced for investors with large holdings. The fund is aiming for safe investment, with a reasonable rate of return which will be reinvested free of tax in the fund.

Any UK-based investor will eventually have to pay full income tax on all gains from the fund when the investment is redeemed, as on any other "roll-up" fund. But Barings has aimed it at corporate investors, because the longer they leave their money in the fund the lower their tax rate will fall under the Government's projected tax regime. So a company which would pay more than 40 per cent now would pay only 35 per cent on tax on its gains if it left its money in the fund for, say, five years.

Scottish advice

Scottish investment management company appears to have pulled off something of a coup in a link-up with one of the "big four" Japanese stockbroking firms. Murray Johnstone, the Glasgow-based group which manages some £2.2 billion investment trusts, unit trusts and pension funds, has reached agreement with Yamachik Investment Trust Managers to advise on investments outside Japan. The Edinburgh firm of Ivory and Sims has also come into the agreement.

Yamachik has funds worth around £10 billion under its control.

Average motor premiums are now around £150 a year, but can run as high as £300 or £400. The monthly cost of paying for the average premium, however, would be only £12.87, and for a £250 annual premium it would be £21.46.

The scheme is based on an interest charge of 3 per cent (APR 6.7 per cent) which is considerably lower than many monthly payment schemes run by insurance brokers.

From July reductions are also being made in non-comprehensive insurance policy rates as well as reductions on other policies in seven different areas. These are Hampshire, Northumberland, Staffordshire, Surrey, Channel Islands, Isle of Man and Avon. On the other hand, drivers with comprehensive insurance will face an increase on these policies from July.

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STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Shares fall sharply

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, June 3. Dealings End, June 14. Contango Day, June 17. Settlement Day, June 24.
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

THE TIMES

Portfolio

DAILY DIVIDEND
£4,000
Claims required
for
+24 pointsWEEKLY DIVIDEND
£20,000
Claims required
for
+153 pointsTHE TIMES
Portfolio

From your Portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming.

No.	Company	Your price or loss
BUILDING AND ROADS		
1	May & Russell	
2	Hewden-Stuart	
3	Loveitt (Y J)	
4	Palma-Graham	
5	Bennett & Hadlam	
6	Ayrcliffe	
7	Bickhouse Dingley	
8	Coaster Ltd	
9	Wimpey (George)	
10	Manders	
INDUSTRIALS S-Z		
1	Wharmoe	
2	Smith & Nephew	
3	Sale Tilley	
4	Tice	
5	Swanhill	
6	Tidagler House	
7	Sig Furniture	
8	UKO	
9	Silvestnight	
10	Waterford Glass	
INDUSTRIALS A-D		
1	Bodycote	
2	Raker Perkins	
3	Bolgrave	
4	Ayrshire Metal	
5	Cowan De Groot	
6	Carole Eng	
7	Brown St Barrow	
8	Brownson (Miles)	
9	Bewley & Treves	
10	Dominion-Bri	
INDUSTRIALS I-R		
1	Larnsett	
2	Libbshall	
3	Marshall's Univ	
4	Moss (Robert)	
5	Ransome Sims	
6	Pearson	
7	Mitchell Somers	
8	Morgan Crucible	
9	Peck	
10	McKechin	

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MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

1985 High Low Start. Price Change Daily Total.

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company

RIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company

UNDATED

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company

INDEX-LINKED

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company

BANKS DISCOUNT HP

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company

ELECTRICALS

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company

BUILDING AND ROADS

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company

INDUSTRIALS A-D

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company

INDUSTRIALS E-H

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company

INDUSTRIALS I-L

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company

INDUSTRIALS M-P

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company

INDUSTRIALS Q-R

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company

INDUSTRIALS S-T

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company

INDUSTRIALS U-V

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company

INDUSTRIALS W-X

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company

INDUSTRIALS Y-Z

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company

INDUSTRIALS A-D

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company

INDUSTRIALS E-H

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company

INDUSTRIALS I-L

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company

INDUSTRIALS M-P

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company

INDUSTRIALS Q-R

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company

INDUSTRIALS S-T

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company

INDUSTRIALS U-V

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company

INDUSTRIALS W-X

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company

INDUSTRIALS Y-Z

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company

FINANCE AND LAND

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company

FOODS

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company

HOTELS AND CATERERS

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company

INDUSTRIALS A-D

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company

INDUSTRIALS E-H

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company

INDUSTRIALS I-L

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company

INDUSTRIALS M-P

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company

INDUSTRIALS Q-R

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company

INDUSTRIALS S-T

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company

INDUSTRIALS U-V

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company

INDUSTRIALS W-X

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company

INDUSTRIALS Y-Z

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company

INDUSTRIALS A-D

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company

INDUSTRIALS E-H

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company

INDUSTRIALS I-L

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company

INDUSTRIALS M-P

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company

INDUSTRIALS Q-R

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company

INDUSTRIALS S-T

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company

INDUSTRIALS U-V

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company

E-K

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company

INDUSTRIALS A-D

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company

INDUSTRIALS E-H

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company

INDUSTRIALS I-L

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company

INDUSTRIALS M-P

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company

INDUSTRIALS Q-R

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company

INDUSTRIALS S-T

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company

INDUSTRIALS U-V

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company

INDUSTRIALS W-X

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company

INDUSTRIALS Y-Z

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company

INDUSTRIALS A-D

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company

INDUSTRIALS E-H

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company

INDUSTRIALS I-L

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company

INDUSTRIALS M-P

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company

INDUSTRIALS Q-R

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company

INDUSTRIALS S-T

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company

INDUSTRIALS U-V

1985 High	1985
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FAMILY MONEY/2

How you can go it alone

PENSIONS

The State earnings related pension scheme (Serps) is to be phased out, as expected, and from 1987 men under the age of 50 and women under the age of 45 will have to make their own pension arrangements.

Existing rights under Serps are to be honoured, so no-one should lose out, but contributions to a private pension scheme will become compulsory to ensure that people make some provision for their old age.

From 1987 employees will be obliged to contribute a minimum of 4 per cent of salary to a pension scheme, with the employer meeting at least half this cost.

At present about 10 million

employees are members of occupational pension schemes, and in most cases are making a contribution towards the cost of this pension provision.

Most of them will be contracted out of Serps, and for these employees there will be little change.

It is the 10 million employees who have no company pension entitlement who are paying higher National Insurance contributions to provide them with a State earnings related pension, who will notice the difference.

"The situation is complicated, but it looks as though the people who will lose out are men aged between 33 and 40, and women in the 28 and 35 age bracket who are contracted into Serps", explains John Stone, of Target Group.

At the moment, employees

contracted into Serps pay a total of 19.45 per cent in employers'/employees' NI contributions. Those contracted out pay a total of 13 per cent, so the cost of providing Serps is 6.25 per cent of salary up to £265 a week.

For this, they can expect to get a pension, in addition to the basic State pension, equal to 25 per cent of final salary (up to the upper earnings limit of £265 a week). In other words, an employee earning £265 a week is paying £16.56 a week to buy a pension at retirement of £66.26 a week.

"A 25-year-old paying the compulsory 4 per cent of earnings into a personal pension plan would end up with a pension of 22.5 per cent of final salary - almost as much as Serps but for 2 per cent a year less contribution", says Mr Stone. And he would not be restricted to providing a pension only up to the upper earnings limit.

Employees currently in Serps who are over 50 if men, or over 45 women, will continue to pay the higher NI contributions and get their pension at retirement of 25 per cent of earnings up to the upper earnings limit.

Men aged 40 to 49 and women aged 35 to 44 will not be able to continue contributing to Serps, but they will have their existing rights honoured, and there will be bonuses added. "If these people pay 4 per cent into a private pension plan from 1987 onwards, they should be roughly as well off as if they had been allowed to continue in Serps", Mr Stone calculates.

"The personal pension plus the deferred Serps rights will total roughly as much as they could have expected under Serps."

"But men in the 35 to 40 age group, and women in the 28 to 35 group who don't qualify for the bonus will be the ones to lose out", he says. Even if they contribute the full 4 per cent to a private pension plan, they will not be as well off as if they had been allowed to continue in Serps.

He points out that it is difficult to be absolutely cate-

gorical about this, since much depends on the performance of the funds invested in a private pension scheme. But in spite of the fact that the proposals (if implemented, as seems likely) will produce up to £4,000 million a year of new business for the pensions industry, not everyone is overjoyed at the review by Mr Norman Fowler, the Secretary of State for Social Services.

Some insurance companies' instant reaction is to complain at the administrative burden in processing millions of small weekly contributions. "One has to be concerned as to whether it will be possible for the private pensions industry to provide compulsory pensions for all", commented Mr Ron Calver, of Norwich Union. "You are going to have to handle a lot of small

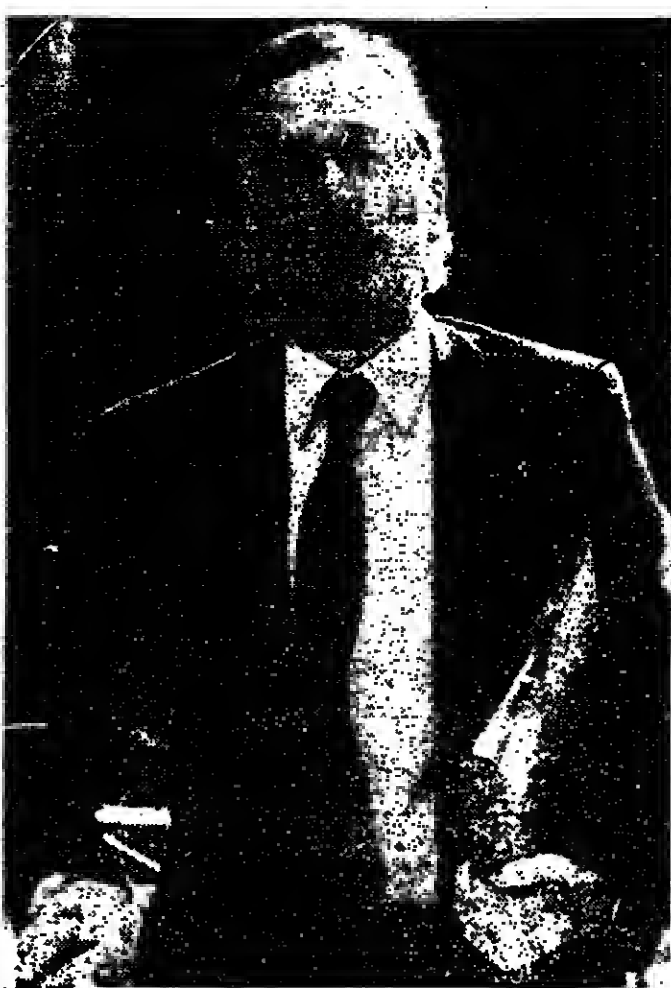
The difference has recently widened

amounts, and just keeping track of all these payments will be an enormous administrative task. A lot of these people are earning £80 to £90 a week. The private pensions market has not aimed itself at this particular sector, and is not geared to coping with payments of a few pounds a week", he says.

Mr Stone at Target does not agree. "I would not dispute the fact that it is going to be an administrative problem. But with new technology we should be well able to solve this."

Allister Neil general manager at Scottish Widows, is also concerned about the administrative burden. "How on earth can somebody seriously expect us to organize pensions for 10 million new employees by April 1987," he asks.

And he is not confident that people will not be worse off. "What we are basically talking about is a reduction in people's expectations of pension provision. In general it will be an awful lot of work for everybody, and the final result is likely to be reduced pension provision for everyone."



The man and his measures: Norman Fowler leaves a Cabinet meeting called to discuss social security

But if Mr Fowler's review is not welcomed by all, there is no doubt that it will concentrate people's minds on how best to provide for themselves in retirement. Anyone currently not in a company pension scheme would do well to start thinking about a pension as soon as possible. Mr Stone calculates that if you want to retire on two-thirds final salary, you will have to contribute the maximum allowed under a personal pension scheme (17.5 per cent of relevant earnings) from age 37 onwards, at the latest.

If you leave it later than that you may find yourself struggling to survive at age 65.

Choosing a personal pension plan is tricky as everything depends on the investment performance of the underlying

funds, and it is difficult to know whether today's top performers will remain so 20 or 40 years hence. The tables show top performers over the past five years in both the unit-linked and with-profits field.

The general view used to be that a with-profits policy was a safer bet than unit-linked. But in recent years the differential in performance between the two has widened to the point where some pension advisers say that people are paying too high a price for the security of with-profits policies, and are recommending people to go for the unit-linked version. All agree, however, that single premiums are better value than regular premium policies.

Lorna Bourke



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TOP PERFORMING UNIT LINKED PERSONAL PENSION PLANS

£500 annual premium paid for:

5 years 10 years

Company & Fund	Open Market Fund £	Annual Pension £	Open Market Fund £	Annual Pension £
Target Managed London & Manchester	6,771	908		
Invest Trust	5,574	774	17,961	2,517
M & G American	5,193	629		
M & G Personal Pension	5,174	627	19,586	2,375
M & G Equity	4,946	599		

TOP PERFORMING WITH PROFITS PERSONAL PENSION PLANS

£500 annual premium paid for:

5 years 10 years

Company	Open Market Fund £	Annual Pension £	Open Market Fund £	Annual Pension £
Scottish Mutual	4,824	725	12,042	1,809
Scottish Widows	4,718	657	13,110	1,929
Yorkshire General	4,613	782	11,666	1,949
Friends Provident	4,602	629		
Scottish Amicable	4,542	678	11,588	1,813
Norwich Union	4,360	678	13,170	2,056
Scottish Equitable	4,358	688	12,106	1,806
Scottish Life	4,492	645	13,283	1,906
Standard Life	4,351	645	12,559	1,892
NPI	4,221	604	12,713	1,818
Equity & Law	4,218	627	12,623	1,878

*Actual results to Nov 1, 1984

Source: Money Magazine

Banks are now the high fliers

A couple of years ago the sensible saver would never have thought of depositing money with a clearing bank; building societies were the obvious choice for funds, which might be needed at short notice.

The shake-up in the savings market over the past two years has changed all that. This week one of the leading figures in the building society movement was overheard grumbling about the high rates banks were paying.

The result is that the building societies have not been attracting enough money to meet the demand for mortgages.

The big four clearing banks have all introduced high interest cheque and deposit accounts in the past 18 months in direct competition with the societies, and the scanty evidence available suggests that they have been pulling in money partly at the societies' expense.

"We believe that in the first quarter of this year we made appreciable inroads into building society funds", said a Midland Bank spokesman this week. Midland's high interest cheque account (Hica), cur-

rently paying 9 per cent net has attracted £1.25 billion since it was launched in February 1984, and probably 40 per cent of this is new money rather than switching of funds from within the bank.

By contrast Midland's Saver Plus account, a deposit account with tiered interest rates, has attracted a modest £200 million since being launched last September. However, other clearing banks have been having greater success with their high rate deposit accounts.

NatWest's Special Reserve, a deposit account with tiered rates starting at 9.25 per cent net on the minimum £2,000 deposit, has pulled in £946 million since January. At Barclays the higher rate deposit account has snapped up over £1,000 million in only ten weeks, and Mr Seymour Fortescue, a general manager, said: "We are confident that we will continue to attract new deposits and stop the flow of funds away from the bank."

The clearing banks are all shy about revealing where the money is coming from, but in

general about 30 to 40 per cent appears to be coming from other financial institutions.

The traditional deposit accounts currently pay between 7 per cent and 7.25 per cent, and unless you cannot meet the minimum deposit requirements, it makes sense to switch into one of the higher rate accounts and earn an extra 2 per cent.

Of course, not all the new money the banks are attracting is coming from building societies. Lloyds Bank, which has attracted £163 million to its Hica introduced in February, has been monitoring the flow of money into the account. Its experience suggests that 30 to 40 per cent is fresh deposits, but much of this is coming from other banks.

For instance, of the £42 million of new money the account attracted in May, only one-fifth came from building societies, and the rest from other banks and financial institutions.

Peter Wilson-Smith

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Summary of results for year ended 31 March 1985

		Change over year
Ordinary shareholders' interest	£416.7m	+17%
Net asset value per ordinary share	145.6p	+17%
Revenue available for ordinary dividends	£8.49m	+9%
Earnings per ordinary share	2.97p	+10%
Dividend for the year	2.85p	+14%

At 31 March 1985 the equity portfolio totalled £437.9m split UK 44%, North America 37%, Japan 9%, Europe 6%, Other countries 4%.

Extracts from the Statement by the Chairman, Mr. Ivor Guild

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his own fund. "We are confident of our ability to... against a background of... ill economic performance... Around the other side... interest rates and a... oil price... index... Dow Jones... vel. Schroder Japanese... Companies put up the... ay with a 9.4 rise... However, investment... smaller companies was... tpe for every... access last month... ally specializing in... technology stocks... ther setbacks. Hill... Aiken Hume's... anology funds both... losses over 7.5 per... Although they do not... on the present lead... 15 league table, some... past four weeks we... opan bourses. The... man Commerzbank... nearly 10 per cent... French and Italian... were close behind... in American invest... consequent slide... switched invest... back to continental... four of the 29... alizing in Europe... small Oppenheimer... a Growth Fund lead... with a 6.9 per cent... urning to the home... interest rates and... ly figures and wor... stores. The FT Ac... e index touched a... Investment Man... ar to be giving... sideration to the... pects.

Mike Hocking

HOW TO MAKE
MONEY WHEN
MARKETS ARE GOING
UP OR DOWN

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FAMILY MONEY/4

Cash soothes wounds from violent crime

Last week a victim of the 1982 Regent's Park handstand bomb attack was awarded compensation of £24,000 for the injuries he suffered — a badly damaged knee and severely impaired hearing.

The case is one of thousands considered each year by the government-funded Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, which provides financial compensation to victims of violent crime. However, in spite of paying out compensation of over £32 million in its last financial year — and an overall total of £185 million since it was set up in 1964 — there is still fairly widespread ignorance of its existence.

Headline events such as the miners' strike (where 1,200 policemen were injured), the Harrods bomb blast or the Libyan embassy siege, will produce claims from those injured, or the relatives of those killed.

Almost any crime of violence is considered by the Board. Mugging, injuries suffered at the hands of rioting football fans, rape, murder — all qualify as crimes of violence and therefore fall within the scheme.

You can also claim if you are injured when trying to prevent a crime or to arrest a suspect, or to help the police arrest someone. The generous definition of a "crime of violence", coupled with the violence of the age we live in, probably accounts for the high level of applications — 31,939 in the last financial year, bringing the running total to 295,241.

Not every applicant is successful in obtaining compensation. There are many hurdles between suffering an injury and receiving an award. For instance, the Board makes no award unless injuries are sufficiently serious to merit compensation above £400. Injuries caused as a result of motoring offences are excluded, unless the offending driver was deliberately trying to run you down. And domestic crimes of violence are subject to strict, and separate, qualifying conditions.

Moreover, there is a general provision covering all applicants while allows the Board to reduce or withhold compensation altogether if you have not made

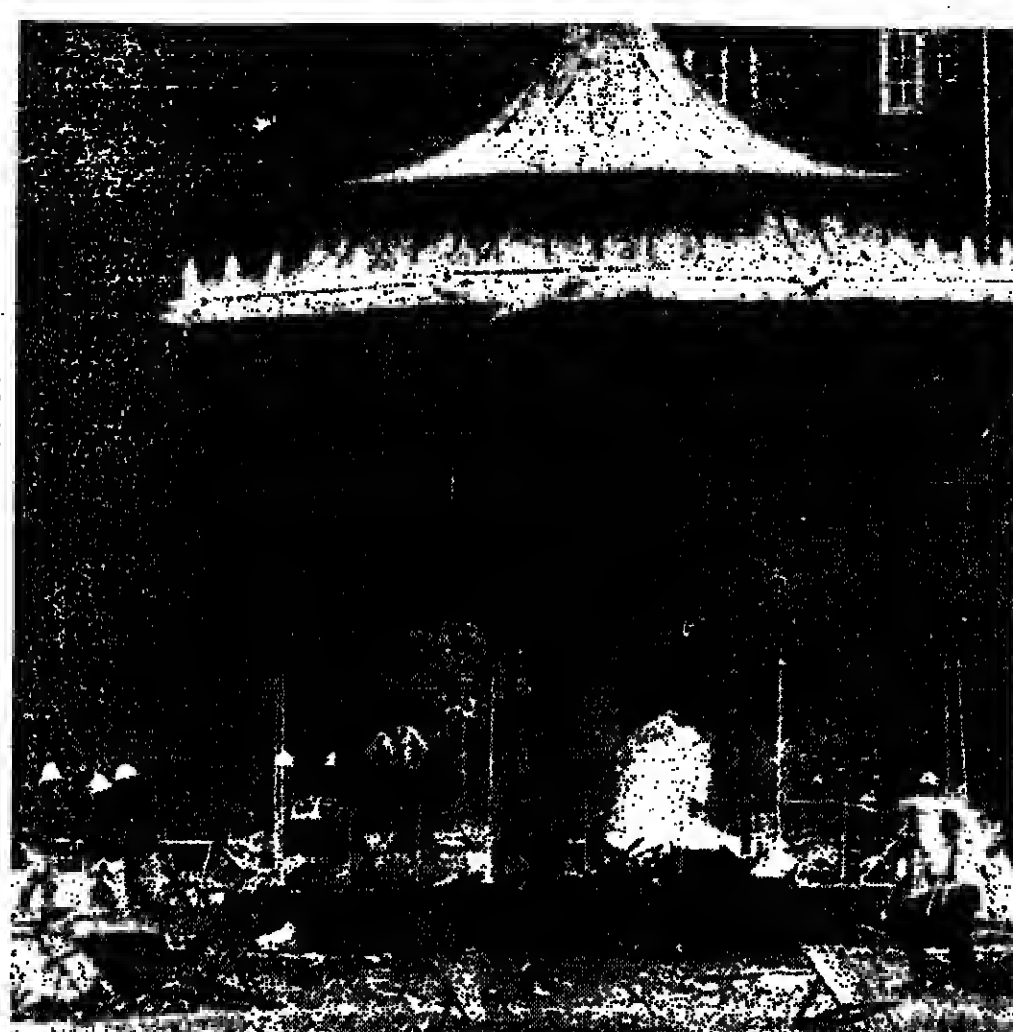
a reasonable attempt to report the crime to the police and to co-operate with any consequent enquiries. However, the assailant does not need to be apprehended or convicted before you can bring a claim.

Once through these obstacles, the Board will award compensation on a similar basis to that used in civil claims for injuries, that is negligence cases. So the seriousness of the injury, pain and suffering, loss of earnings, damage to or loss of personal effects (not including jewellery) are all juggled in arriving at an award.

Rough guideline figures are occasionally published to indicate the amounts paid for certain injuries. These vary according to individual cases and take no account of lost earnings. Examples:

- Fractured jaw wired £1,250
- Rape £2,750
- Loss of two upper front teeth £1,250
- Loss of vision of one eye £12,500
- Total loss of hearing (girl of 12) £32,000

If a person dies as a consequence of his or her injuries, the Board makes a lump sum payment of £3,500 — called a "bereavement award" — to the surviving spouse, or to



Aftermath of murder, Regent's Park, 1982: An injured victim has been awarded £24,000

the victim's parents, if he or she was unmarried and under 18. Compensation, when it comes, generally comes in the form of a single lump sum — although there are facilities for interim awards to be made, followed later by a final

payment in cases where the full extent of an injury will take time to ascertain.

However, the actual processing of claims is fairly swift, with approximately three-quarters of all claims resolved within nine months.

Claims must be brought within three years of the crime complained of, otherwise any entitlement to compensation is forfeited. The good news, however, is that the application procedure is free and the forms (from C.I.C.B. 10, Russell Square WC1B 5EW) are easy to fill in.

The Board will want to check the authenticity of your claim, subsequent injuries and financial loss. So you must authorize it on the application form, to make the appropriate inquiries with the police, your doctor and employers.

The original decision on your case will not require you to attend a hearing. But if you appeal — as the handstand bomb victim did — there will usually be an informal hearing before the Board. This particu-

The £123,000 record

The highest award by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board in its last financial year, £123,250, was paid to a man who was attacked in 1977 in a working men's club where he was celebrating his 50th birthday. His jaw was fractured and his head, chest, abdomen and legs seriously bruised.

His condition deteriorated to such an extent that both legs were amputated above the knee. He is now being looked after by his wife who had to give up her employment.

The Board accepted that his condition was due to the incident in 1977. It first made interim awards totalling £20,000, and later awarded a final payment of £103,250, making a total of £123,250.

A 71-year-old widower, blind in one eye, was attacked by a man who hit him across the face with a billiard cue, as a result of which he lost the sight in his remaining eye. He required alterations to his house, the installation of blind aids, a talking watch and home assistance — costing £1,794.

In addition because he lives alone, he requires home help which will cost about £2,300 per year. The Board awarded him a total of £56,794 to cover the costs already incurred, compensation for his injuries and future expenses.

How Tyndall could give you a bigger income from smaller companies

A gross yield, currently 58% above the average. A distribution that we have increased every year. And a 193% increase in the price of distribution units in the 9 years under Tyndall management.

In short, a performance that makes a particularly convincing argument for investing in smaller companies for bigger income. And for fitting the Tyndall Smaller Companies Dividend Fund into your portfolio.

Smaller companies. Bigger profit?

The advantages of investment in smaller companies are:

- The fact that they tend to grow more quickly than larger ones.
- That they're more likely to benefit from take-over bids.
- And, most important of all, that many are under researched by the stock market. Which leaves astute fund managers the chance to buy shares at low valuations — for potentially high profits.

Up and Up.

Take for example the estimated gross starting yield. At a current 7.08% — a full 58% above the FT Actuaries All Share Index yield — the Fund makes the market average look less than generous.

And by picking the right smaller companies, we have been able to increase the return in every year since we started to manage the Fund. That's nine years now — and it looks like this year won't be an exception.

Our capital performance is worth knowing about too. If you'd invested £1,000 in distribution units in July 1976, when we first took the Fund under management, they'd now be worth £2,932 (at 31.5.85).

A performance good enough to put us in most investors' good books. And high enough to outstrip the FT Index over the same period.

Invest before 28 June for your 2% discount.

To invest in Tyndall Smaller Companies Dividend Fund (formerly Scottish Income Fund) you need from £1,000, or from £25 a month. If you'd like to know more, please complete the coupon. And remember, for lump-sum investment before 28 June 1985 we're offering something else that will fit well into your plans — a 2% discount in the form of extra units.

2% DISCOUNT

Smaller Companies Dividend Fund.

Tyndall Managers Limited.

FREEPOST (BSH470), Bristol BS99 7BR.

☐ I am interested in lump sum investment.

☐ I am interested in monthly investment through the Savings Plan.

Name _____

Address _____

HEALTHY?
NON-SMOKER?
THIS IS FOR YOU!

DO YOU QUALIFY?

Up to £50,000 free

EXTRA PROTECTION FOR YOUR FAMILY

At last — a vigorous plan specially designed to give free extra cover to healthy people.

HERE'S HOW YOU BENEFIT

- If you qualify, you can get immediate cover of up to £142,000 — for just pennies a day (see table below). So you get outstandingly high protection for very little cost.
- But that's just the start, because your protection actually GROWS each year, until it DOUBLES by the ninth year!
- That means extra peace of mind for you and your family.

HOW CAN I QUALIFY?

To offer such high cover for such low cost, we have to set strict entry qualifications. If you can answer 'No' to the first five questions opposite and you are between 18 and 55 and your height and weight are satisfactory, you could qualify — so apply today! This is an opportunity you shouldn't miss.

FREE as a first policy

Dynamic Cover Plan is low cost. It brings extra high cover. It can keep pace with your changing needs — and allow for the increasing cost of living.

FREE as a top-up policy

If you already have ordinary life insurance, the rising cost of living can soon leave you under-insured. Dynamic Cover Plan will KEEP your family protected, because it keeps on growing.

FREE for women

Women can get even higher benefits than men of the same age — see the table.

FREE for your pocket

As little as 17p a day can give you all this peace of mind. Check the questions opposite to see if you qualify — and APPLY NOW!

It's easy to apply

Just choose the initial amount you wish to pay each month, then complete the simple application form. Please answer all the questions and sign the declaration. Then post your application and cheque to: GRE (LTD/DCP), FREEPOST, Balm Road, Lytham St. Anne's, Lancashire FY8 4BR. No stamp is needed.

GRE is one of the largest insurance groups in the UK with worldwide assets exceeding £2,000,000,000. On average, we pay out over £200,000 every working day in settlement of claims. We're friendly, positive and helpful, and we look forward to welcoming you as a policyholder.

Dynamic Cover Plan is underwritten by Guardian Assurance plc, a wholly owned subsidiary of GRE and the specialist life assurance company within the group.

Apply today! The sooner you start — the sooner your family is protected.

FIVE WINNING FEATURES

- At least 50% extra cover FREE — if you qualify**
If you are healthy and don't smoke cigarettes, you are likely to live longer. So why shouldn't you get a better deal when it comes to life insurance? The answer is — you do! By restricting this offer to non-smokers and smokers in good health, we can offer MUCH BETTER terms — and that means up to £50,000 immediate extra protection for your family — FREE!
- Your protection grows — to meet your growing needs**
Each year, your guaranteed protection grows by 12% of the initial amount — for only 10p extra on your total premium. So your policy actually gives you better and better value for money each year! Of course, your FREE extra cover grows too, till it doubles by the ninth year.
- You can cash back for more**
Each Dynamic Cover Plan lasts for nine years — and at the end of each nine-year term, or on your 50th birthday, if earlier, nothing is payable but you have the guaranteed right to take out another Plan — whatever your health at the time. You can choose your level of protection, right up to the final amount on your previous Plan.
- Changes it if your needs change**
Whenever you wish, you can convert your Plan to a savings policy, a policy to provide a family income, even a policy to protect your mortgage.
- Under current legislation the Sum Assured on death will be paid completely free of Income Tax or Capital Gains Tax.**

ALL THIS PROTECTION FOR YOUR FAMILY AT SUCH LOW COST

Age now	Initial sum assured for your choice of initial monthly payment	£6.00	£9.00	£12.00	£15.00
Male	Female	£6.00	£9.00	£12.00	£15.00
16-30	16-34	£52,000	£62,000	£112,000	£142,000
31	35	\$49,367	\$77,848	\$106,329	\$134,810
32	36	\$44,827	\$70,689	\$96,551	\$122,413
33	37	\$40,414	\$63,730	\$87,046	\$110,832
34	38	\$36,448	\$57,476	\$78,504	\$99,532
35	39	\$32,773	\$51,680	\$70,588	\$88,435
36	40	\$29,433	\$46,415	\$63,396	\$80,377
37	41	\$26,351	\$41,584	\$56,756	\$71,959
38	42	\$23,636	\$37,272	\$50,909	\$64,545
39	43	\$21,138	\$33,333	\$46,528	\$57,723
40	44	\$18,886	\$29,742	\$40,577	\$51,573
41	45	\$16,863	\$26,623	\$36,363	\$46,109
42	46	\$15,057	\$23,745	\$32,432	\$41,119
43	47	\$13,448	\$21,206	\$28,965	\$36,724
44	48	\$12,018	\$18,952	\$25,805	\$32,619
45	49	\$10,729	\$16,916	\$23,108	\$29,236
46	50	\$9,608	\$15,147	\$20,689	\$26,231
47	51	\$8,566	\$13,556	\$18,666	\$23,666
48	52	\$7,531	\$12,149	\$16,857	\$21,385
49	53	\$6,598	\$10,911	\$15,203	\$19,276
50	54	\$5,741	\$9,800	\$13,658	\$17,317
51	55	\$5,080	\$8,771	\$12,253	\$15,536
52	56	\$4,504	\$7,849	\$11,044	\$13,939
53	57	\$4,045	\$7,159	\$10,000	\$12,598
54	58	\$3,679	\$6,573	\$9,174	\$11,447
55	59	\$3,369	\$6,061	\$8,400	\$10,456

Your protection increases every year and DOUBLES BY THE NINTH YEAR

The figures in the table include the extra benefits available to those who qualify (these are at least 50% higher than our standard benefits).

Allowance is made for 1% years of age — so your initial sum assured may be higher than shown. This offer is only available to persons resident in Great Britain between the ages of 16 and 55.

COUNTY BANK GLOBAL INCOME TRUST

Invest in a new income fund with wider horizons and opportunities.

The new Global Income Trust from County Bank is an exciting investment opportunity which opens up new and important horizons for thousands of people in the UK who invest for income.

Although there is an extremely wide choice of ordinary international unit trusts available which aim to provide capital growth, the income potential which they offer is usually very small indeed.

County Bank has responded to the income requirements of investors by creating a truly international unit trust which offers high and increasing income, plus attractive capital growth prospects, without unnecessary risk.

The international scope of the Global Income Trust will enable our highly experienced fund managers to look for the best income-earning securities worldwide. These will not only include equities but also government and corporate bonds. We at County Bank believe that this balanced portfolio will offer not just a high income, but also the prospect of significant capital appreciation.

County Bank enjoys an enviable reputation for successful management of income unit trusts. We already manage and advise two specialist income funds and act as adviser to the National Westminster Bank Group's offshore funds. Our consistently outstanding performance record speaks for itself.

CONSISTENTLY IMPRESSIVE INCOME AND PERFORMANCE

Source: MONEY MANAGEMENT, MAY 1985

Now, with the Global Income Trust, we aim to pool our considerable expertise to offer you the opportunity of investing in a widely diversified fund that offers high income and growth potential.

SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY OFFER

During the initial offer period — which ends on 14th June 1985 — the unit price will be held at 50p. As a special introductory offer, we are giving a discount of 2% to all investors whose applications are received before that date.

The estimated starting gross annual yield is 7% and the income distributions will be made quarterly.

But remember, the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up.

So if you're investing for income and you're looking for a unit trust that is backed by experienced managers with a proven track record, complete and return the coupon below.

WHY COUNTY BANK?

County Bank Unit Trusts Limited is part of

Your starter for £10...

There's no reason for unit trust investment to be expensive. Or complicated. Not in Gartmore's book. Our Moneybuilder Plan - with its passbook - makes investing in a unit trust as easy as saving in a building society. And considerably more exciting.

"How could you get into the unit trust market for £10 a month?"
£10 a month or a £25 lump sum is all it takes. And you can take your choice from any of our 18 proven and varied trusts.

Gifts for example. Oil and Energy. Or the stock markets of Japan, Australia or the US. (Who says money doesn't go far these days?)
Add to your investment when you want. Or take it out when you want. Just send us your instructions and your passbook.

"How do unit trusts compare with building societies?"
Of course a building society would point out that a unit trust investment could go down as well as up.



What they might not tell you is that £10 a month in the average UK general unit trust over the past 5 years produced £1091.00* compared with £748.00 in a building society savings share account.

"What are the charges?"
Unlike similar plans, there are no extra charges added on. You only pay the standard initial and annual unit trust charges.

"How should you start?"
Why not fill in the coupon now for more details? And find out how Moneybuilder can be your starter for £10.

With the Gartmore name as a bonus.

* To 1st April 1985. Source: Unit Trust Association

To: Gartmore Fund Managers Ltd., 2 St Mary Axe, London EC3A 8BP Telephone 01-623 1212.

Please send me full information on the Moneybuilder Plan

Name (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Title)

Address

Postcode

TT form 11

Gartmore

Not applicable to Euro Member of the Unit Trust Association

Time to check the taxman's power

In several of their judgments in recent years, judges hearing tax cases in the House of Lords have equated the interests of the Inland Revenue with those of all taxpayers. It is difficult to know whether they are naive or unduly prejudiced in favour of the Civil Service establishment. Certain it is that they know not what they say.

They cannot have suffered from tax demands from collectors for amounts which are not due - and agreed by inspectors not to be due. For the last year in particular it has paid to make an extremely careful check of very tax demand. While the Chairman of the Inland Revenue admitted, in giving evidence to the Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee, that an internal survey found errors in Schedule E work in 22 per cent of cases in 1980-81 and 27 per cent of assessments in 1979-80, a subjective judgment of one accountancy practitioner would be that the incidence of such mistakes could have risen to well over 50 per cent. There must be hundreds of thousands of taxpayers trying to bring their affairs up to date, many of them awaiting repayments, some of which can be quite substantial.

Despite the fact that several tax districts have written to local firms of accountants begging the forbearance of taxpayers and their advisers in pressing for settlement of affairs, there continues a stream of harassment. Employers are receiving PAYE audit visits which often concentrate on trivial items, leaving the feeling that the officers concerned are only out to justify the use of their time, regardless of any kind of crude cost-benefit judgment.

Employees are unable to obtain simple adjustments in their coding notices to the point

where notification of a change of circumstances after January 1 is unlikely to be effected by the end of the tax year on the following April 5.

Any taxpayer with directly assessed tax, for example the self-employed, will have been battered by demands, despite the fact that information and accounts have been submitted months before.

It appears that, according to the evidence of one recent Revenue employee, this is because the tax officers in inspectors' offices, were given inadequate training in completing the data for the collectors' offices and the computer operators in the big collection offices were rejecting out of hand any firms with the most trivial error.

The result is that the original, probably excessively estimated, assessment remained on file for the collection process. One can speculate that this is considered to be work to rule to demonstrate the need for more staff. Why public suffering should be thought to make the victim look more favourably on the inflictors is something probably few taxpayers will understand.

What is the reason for official stubbornness?

But they do understand excessive demands and inordinate delays in authorizing repayments. Children and students in receipt of income from deeds of covenant seem to have been especially picked upon by the office in Bootle which scrutinises the wording of such deeds, and question in the minutest detail any variation from what they consider to be necessary.

Recently they have, under pressure, issued standard forms,

which seems fine. However, these are based on the assumption that the only true convenants are for gross income, regardless of the fact that most people, when convenanting to student children would rather fix the net sum payable, for the simple reason that it makes payment by bankers order so much easier. Is this official stubbornness due to a desire to make work in the event any change in the basic rate of tax?

Let it be thought that it is only junior officials who are at fault, consider the recent scandalous behaviour of those much closer to the Board of Inland Revenue in the nursery - crèche case.

Firstly, they allow the Equal Opportunities Commission (a public body, mark) and the Which? Tax Guide to state that crèche facilities paid for by an employee would not be treated as a benefit of the mothers. Secondly, they change their mind but do not tell anyone about it.

Thirdly, they not only begin to put their change of heart into immediate effect, but decide to go back up to six years.

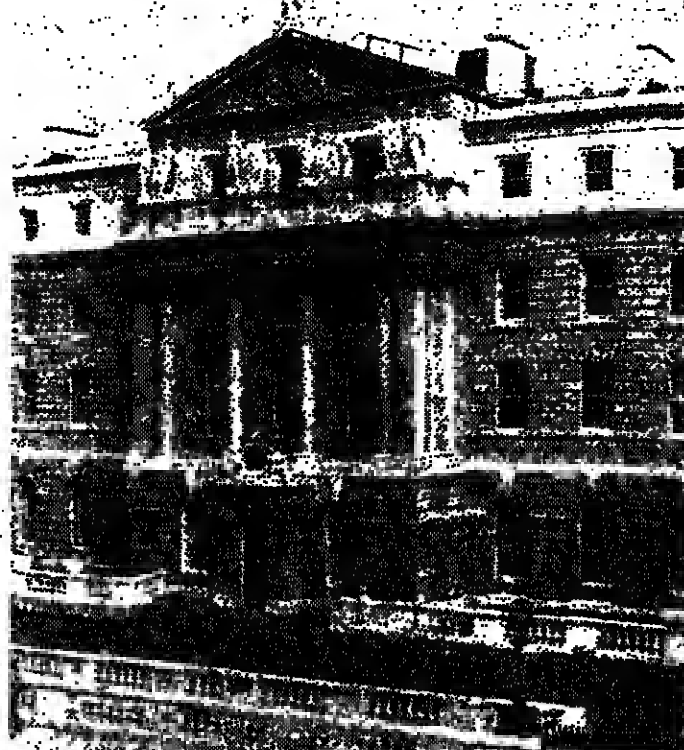
Fourthly, despite their moral dishonesty so far, they blandly assert that everyone should have known all along that these benefits were taxable, and reportedly advise a deputation, that the aggrieved mothers should sue the EOC and Which?

Fifthly, they persuade the minister, in announcing that past periods up to April 5, 1985, would not be attacked, to parrot their cover-up and try and throw the blame, in his parliamentary reply, again on the EOC and Which? without the slightest hint of regret or remorse.

It may be wondered why so much is made of this case. There are several reasons. The most important is that tightening the screws of enforcement are being tightened all the time, although it is rare for them to commit such a public blunder (thanks largely to The Times and The Sunday Times). But tax law is written on a catch-all basis. For very long periods there is no problem because the law is selectively applied to generally 'undeserving' people.

This was a public relations disaster

Then, suddenly, an inspector, whom a law lord would undoubtedly consider to be public-spirited, decides to have a go at single-parent families. Except that this instance was a public relations disaster. The normal victims are ordinary citizens and companies who have gone along thinking that they were not doing anything taxable and not even aware that they should perhaps seek advice. The fine toothcomb of



Somerset House, the Inland Revenue centre in London. Too much power without accountability?

the PAYE audit is turning up hundreds of such cases every month - a process which has been compared to the Revenue moving the goal posts after the game is over.

Ministers have little room for initiative

Politicians are cowed. It was widely rumoured that many of them were having trouble with the Revenue over expense claims until these were exempted by a provision in the 1984 Finance Act. Treasury ministers are in thrall and never seem to seriously question the accountability of the Board of Inland Revenue for the administration of the tax system.

The ministers may decide policy on the basis of options put up by the civil servants but are left with little room for policy initiative. "That would be administratively complex, minister" (code for "it would require a lot more staff" which is code for "we don't want this at any price").

Then, of course, it is the Inland Revenue which drafts the legislation in a way designed for maximum obscurity. The favourite make-work way of doing this (not unique to tax law) is to change the law by inserting odd words and phrases in the original text and deleting others. It makes reading a modern finance Act an impossibility.

The only treasury minister of recent years who had a hope of understanding it was effectively neutered by the frequent public reference to the fact that his opinion had been sought, when at the bar, by some of the biggest tax avoidance merchants.

A few years ago an inspector of taxes, applying for a job in commerce, was asked the

standard question as to why he was considering leaving the Inland Revenue. He replied that he did not like the attitude being taken by an increasing number of colleagues that all taxpayers were dishonest and had something to hide. He regarded his job as requiring a fair deal for the tax-gathering machinery with the minimum of resentment from taxpayers.

A few weeks ago the Association of Inspectors of Taxes put out a paper suggesting greater rewards for informers - usually disgruntled spouses, ex-employees or neighbours - to enable the enquiry branch "to open up" accountants' or solicitors' offices with consequent substantial spin-off benefits in terms of further clients, registered for investigation. There seems to be an inference that employees in professional offices would be bribed to commit a breach of their employment contract.

Unfortunately, the courts may not prove much protection for the citizen-taxpayer. At the top in House of Lords, one of the most influential members has gone on record as being out to defeat any individual or company seeking to conclude their business in a tax-effective way.

One of the other Law Lords, in a famous judgment, seemed to deliberately equate legal avoidance with illegal evasion. And the dictum that everyone is entitled to arrange their affairs so that the Inland Revenue takes the smallest shovel from their stores, has now been stifled so effectively that it is shortly expected to breathe its last.

Andrew Spenser

The author is a chartered accountant practising outside London.

FRAMLINGTON

CAPITAL TRUST

WITH SAVINGS PLAN

A new opportunity to invest in a star performer

Framlington Capital Trust has long had a claim to be one of the best unit trusts ever launched: its consistent performance, its low charges and the way it has always been run combine to produce a very good unit trust indeed.

It was formed in January 1969 to invest for a combination of capital growth and modest income mainly through smaller British companies. It has always been managed by Bill Stratford, now Framlington's Chairman.

Between January 1969 and 1st May 1985, the price of units rose 885 per cent, compared with 244 per cent for the FT All-Share Index.

Over ten years to 1st May it had by far the best performance of any unit trust. With net income reinvested, £1,000 on 1st May 1975 would have been worth £13,019 ten years later, 31 per cent more than the next best fund, which reached £9,905. The same investment in the FT All-Share Index would have grown to £6,517 (Source: Planned Savings).

The trust also produced a scintillating performance for regular savers: £20 per month over ten years to 1st May would have turned into £10,016 for an outlay of £2,400. Over 15 years £20 per month would have produced £25,734 for an outlay of £3,600, the best result for any unit trust.

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Units are available in both income form (with distributions twice each year) and accumulation form (in which net income is reinvested).

On 1st May 1985 the price of income units was 164.2p (accumulation units, 193.0p). The estimated gross yield was 3.22 per cent.

HOW TO INVEST

You can buy units by completing the form below and sending it to us with your cheque. Units are allocated at the price ruling when we receive your order. The minimum investment for a lump sum is £500. There is a discount of 1 per cent for investments of £10,000 or more.

For the monthly savings plan, the minimum is £20 per month, with a discount of 1 per cent for contributions of £100 per month or more. Accumulation units are used and are allocated at the price ruling on the 5th of each month. To start your plan, complete the application and send it with your cheque for the first contribution. Subsequent contributions are by the direct debit mandate which we shall send to you for your signature.

Investors are reminded that the price

of units and the income from them can go down as well as up.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Framlington Capital Trust is an authorised unit trust constituted by Trust Deed. The Trustee is Lloyds Bank Plc. The Managers are Framlington Unit Management Limited, 3 London Wall Buildings, London EC2M 5NQ. Telephone 01-628 5181.

Applications will be acknowledged. Certificates for lump-sum investments will be sent by the registrars, Lloyds Bank Plc, normally within 6 weeks.

Prices are published daily in The Times, Daily Telegraph and Financial Times.

The annual charge is 1.5 per cent (+VAT) of the value of the fund. The Trust Deed includes powers to increase this to a maximum of 1 per cent if necessary. The initial charge (included in the offer price) is 3 per cent.

When units are sold back to the managers payment is normally made within 7 days of receipt of the renounced certificate. Savings plans can be cashed in at any time.

Commission of 1.5 per cent is paid to qualified intermediaries, but not on savings plans.

Distributions on income units are paid net of basic rate tax on May 15th and November 15th to unit holders on the register two months previously. A report is sent at the time of the distribution. Savings statements are sent every six months.

Registered in England No. 895241. Member of the Unit Trust Association.

This offer is not open to residents of the Republic of Ireland.

To: Framlington Unit Management Limited, 3 London Wall Buildings, London EC2M 5NQ

LUMP SUM I wish to invest

£ in Framlington Capital Trust (minimum £500)

I enclose my cheque payable to Framlington Unit Management Limited, I am over 18. For accumulation units to which income is reinvested, tick here ☐

Surname (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Title)

Full first name(s)

Address

Signature

(Joint applicants should all sign and give details separately)

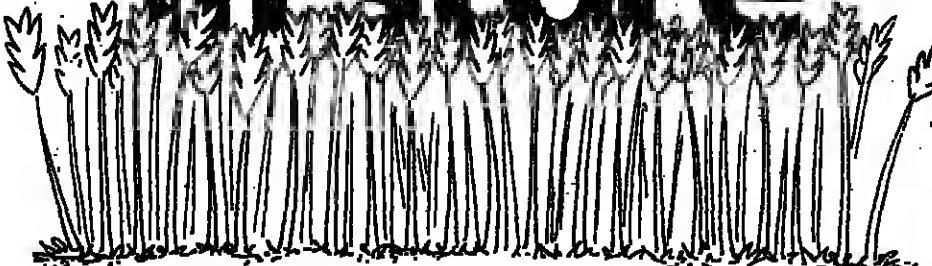
MONTHLY SAVINGS I wish to start a Monthly Savings Plan for

£ in Framlington Capital Trust (minimum £20)

I enclose my cheque for £ for my first contribution (this can be for a larger amount than your monthly payment). I am over 18.

FRAMLINGTON

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18 6

FAMILY MONEY/6

Savings that make sense

There are plenty of regular schemes to choose from, says Maggie Drummond

The news that Sir Keith Joseph was planning to raise parental contributions to student grants came on the morning I took out my first regular savings plan. The arithmetic was simple, not to say naive - eldest child eight - going to university, hopefully, in ten years' time.

A 10-year with-profits endowment would mature at just the right time. No doubt there were more tax-efficient ways of doing it, but the real point was that it provided the discipline through which my weak-minded savers might actually manage to juggle together some cash for future use.

The other *raison d'être* for a regular savings scheme is that relatively few investors have sizeable lump sums that they feel able to tie up for years. Many of the latest unit trusts have a minimum investment of £500, or even £1,000 (though £250 is still about the average) - but you can have access through regular unit trust savings plans for as little as £20 a month.

There are plenty of regular savings plans to choose from. ■ **Building societies** Building societies have always offered monthly savings plans - some of them from as little as £1 a month. Usually they offer at least 1 per cent, possibly more, above the going share rate. (currently 8.25 per cent). But these subscription shares, as they are known, can be a bit of a minefield for the regular saver.

Quentin Deane, editor of *Building Society Choice*, who analyses current building society offers, says: "Frankly, building society monthly savings plans do not offer very much to the investor at the moment. They aren't very good payers."

Virtually every building society is offering some kind of extra interest scheme - and the monthly savings accounts carry restrictions and penalties.

Unit Trust Regular Savings Schemes

Current value of £20 invested monthly for 5 years to June 1

UK GENERAL	£
MLA General	2666.2
M & G Midland & Gen	2548.9
Franklin Templeton Capital	2548.9
Barclays Unicorn Gen	2432.5
Schroder UK Equity	2397.7
UK GROWTH	
Schroder Smaller Coys	2378.8
Fidelity Spec Sits	2369.7
GT UK Capital	2368.0
Britannia Smaller Coys	2361.5
Lloyds BK Smaller Coys	2356.0

UK EQUITY		
Perpetual Income	2452.6	
Gartmor Income	2429.8	
Franklin Templeton Extra Inc	2392.7	
M & G Dividend	2366.2	
S & P Worldwinds	2359.1	
INTERNATIONAL		
Oppenheimer Int Grth	2338.2	
Perpetual Growth	2130.6	
GT International	2083.2	
Hill Samuel Int	2027.3	
Germans Global	1970.5	

Many, for instance, permit only partial withdrawal a year - or only one month's lapse in contributions before you lose the extra interest.

Top regular savings account, at present, according to *Building Society Choice*, is the 11.55 per cent available at the Hincley and Rugby - but monthly contributions are limited to £40, and you can make no withdrawals at all.

■ **National Savings** Those who want their savings to be absolutely safe and cast iron guaranteed, should look to National Savings as an alternative. The NS Yearly Plan guarantees 9.28 per cent a year - provided you hold for the full five years. Contributions are paid in the first year - minimum monthly payments £20, maximum £100.

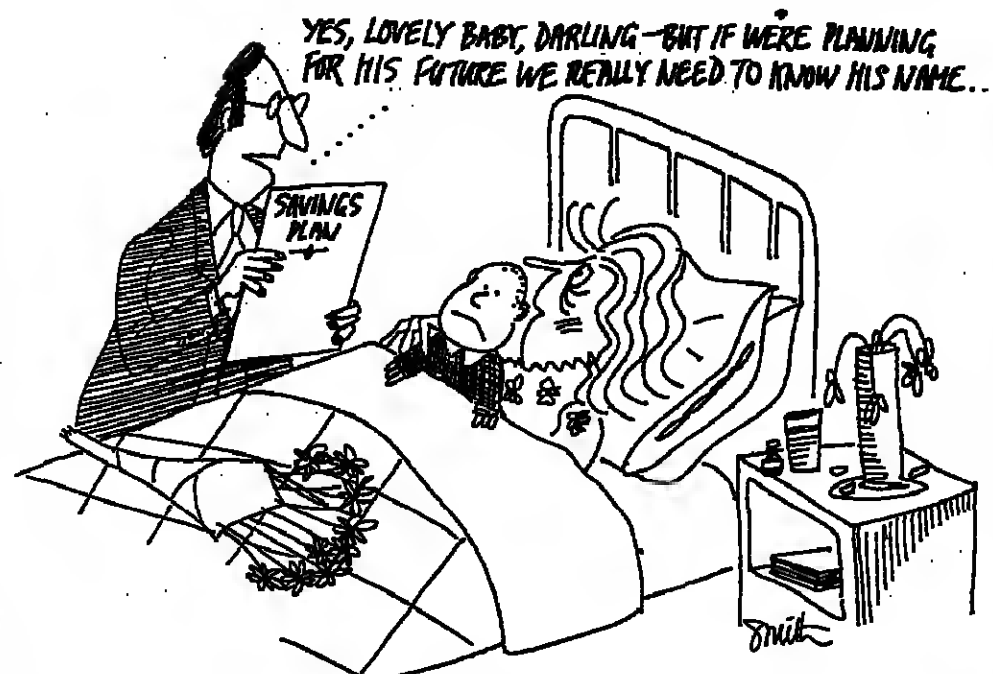
Cash in after 12 months, however, and you will collect only 6 per cent on your savings. If you hold for four years after that (to continue savings you start another plan) the eventual return is a totally tax-free lump sum - not a bad deal for higher rate taxpayers as well as more modest savers.

■ **Banks** The banks offer various savings schemes - something like Barclays Bonus Saver (£10 minimum a month for 12 months) which looks scarcely worth doing when you can get 8.25 per cent it pays in a basic building society account. National Westminster is slightly better value at 9.125 per cent over six months.

■ **Unit Trusts** Undoubtedly the main focus of attention as far as regular savings is concerned are the monthly unit trust schemes.

Since the abolition of life insurance tax relief effectively knocked the bottom out of the 10-year unit-linked savings market, investment houses have redoubled the charms of their regular savings plans. Some groups, like M&G and Franklin Templeton, have always been committed to them. Now others have dusted their brochures down and are assiduously promoting them.

Investment in units carries risks, but also the prospect of capital gain. But they offer much better value, at least for the basic rate taxpayer, than the unit-linked plans that brokers still sell the public for the reason that, being insurance products, there is more com-



mission to be made out of them. The basic monthly minimum commitment to a regular unit trust savings scheme is £20 - though some groups - Save & Prosper for instance - go lower than that. The investor pays the normal unit trust charges - 5 per cent front-end load and annual management charge.

Only GT Unit Trust Group has taken advantage of the relaxation in the UTA's commission rules by not investing the first three months' contributions - to pay for the cost of marketing it. No one else has followed suite.

The problem for the investor, of course, is which fund to go for, and the table for performance figures gives a guide to the recent past. Hargreaves Lansdown, the Bristol-based licensed dealers has come up with one solution on the advice front. Julian Mumford says: "We have just launched a service for the regular unit trust saver. You pay £25 and you get advice on which funds we think are suitable. We add back our commission to offset the £25."

"Most investors seeking to build up capital will obviously go for a low-yielding growth fund. And it should be borne in mind that the yearly unit trust dividends, although automatically reinvested if you wish, are still taxable annually."

Unit trust groups usually allow you to switch between funds on a discount basis - though most discourage the regular saver from switching too often. Once having chosen your unit trust you should be prepared to suit with it for a few years. The best way to get a spread - if you can afford it - is to put the minimum £20 into two or three funds rather than

investing all your monthly contribution in the same unit trust.

There are no strings attached to regular unit trust savings schemes. You can encash without penalty at any time. In order to achieve customer loyalty, though several groups offer a "bonus" - anything from 1 to 3 per cent - on monthly contributions of over a certain amount, or units held for a certain period.

Brown Shipley possibly offers the best bonus deal - 3 per cent on every £20 a month minimum contribution. Arbutnot offers 1 per cent on the same basis. Framlington offers 1 per cent on contributions over £100 a month. But at the end of the day it is the investment performance that counts.

The ultimate product in the regular unit trust savings market would be a kind of managed account - with the unit trust group choosing where to put the contributions, says Tony Doggart, of Save & Prosper. "We are not permitted to do this because of Department of Trade

restrictions on unit trusts investing in other unit trusts. You can only have this managed fund concept by taking the insurance route, which is rather silly. We keep asking the DoT to change the rules, but so far we have had no luck." And it would be one way to justify higher charge.

So what of the insurance linked saving plans? Not surprisingly sales have plummeted since the abolition of life insurance tax relief which effectively subsidised contributions. For basic rate taxpayers it makes little sense to bear the 37.5 per cent income tax rate paid by insurance companies, and with capital gains tax exemptions now index-linked the "tax free" gain at the end is often no advantage at all. Higher rate taxpayers, however, may still find the 10-year plans worthwhile, as the proceeds are tax free.

Some companies have also tried to market five-year plans, mainly as an attempt to persuade intermediaries to sell regular savings plans.

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£10,864

IN JUST 10 YEARS

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To: Save & Prosper, FREEPOST, Romford RM1 1BR.

Please send me details of your Regular Savings Plan.

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SAVE & PROSPER

ANNOUNCING NEW ISSUE GRESHAM UNIT TRUSTS

— Investment Management by Rothschilds —

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The door has opened on a new investment opportunity. Because now, two of the most respected names in the investment world have forged an alliance that means bigger profits on your investment - and up to a 14% bonus if you act before 20th June 1985. Two different types of trust give you two investment options.

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...is recommended for investors wishing to achieve maximum growth of capital; all income will be automatically reinvested.

The Trust will invest in a portfolio of worldwide shares, the main areas of investment being the USA, Japan and the UK.

The portfolio will be actively managed and will switch between world stockmarkets to invest in areas with the greatest potential return: it will be adjusted continually to take advantage of fluctuations in overseas markets and currencies.

THE INCOME UNIT TRUST

...is an answer for investors seeking a long term rising source of income and means of protecting against inflation. The Trust distributes income twice a year, which you may bank, or reinvest, whichever suits you best.

Investment will be mainly in UK Equities with above average yields, and the portfolio may also contain a small exposure in overseas markets and can invest in fixed interest stocks where appropriate.

You should remember that for both Trusts, the unit prices and the income from them can go down as well as up.

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As an opening offer to investors, Gresham will add 1% to every investment of £1,000 or more... 14% to £5,000 or more. This initial offer is available only until Thursday 20th June 1985.

HOW TO INVEST

Units are offered at an initial price of 100p per unit until 20th June, and thereafter at the current offer price. The minimum initial investment is £1,000. To take advantage of these new Trusts now, simply complete the details on the coupon below, attach your cheque made payable to Gresham Unit Trust Managers Limited, and send it to the FREEPOST address provided.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

A service charge equivalent to 5% of the offer price is included in the price of the units, (plus a rounding charge, if applicable, of 1.25p or 1%, whichever is the lower), out of which the Managers will pay commission to qualified agents (rates available on request). The annual management charge is 84% plus VAT, and is based on the value of the funds. (The Trust Deed allows a maximum of 2% plus VAT at 3 months notice).

Following receipt of your Application, a contract note will be sent immediately. Unit certificates will normally be sent within 28 days.

The estimated starting gross yield for the Global Growth Unit Trust is 2% p.a. and that for the Income Unit Trust is 6% p.a.

The distribution date for the Global Growth Trust is 30th June and for the Income Trust 31st January and 31st July. Units will be quoted ex-dividend 2 months prior to the distribution.

Units may be sold back at any time by notifying the Managers in writing or by telephone, at the bid price ruling when the request is received. You will normally receive a cheque within 7 working days of our receiving your signed certificate. Buying and Selling prices and yield will be quoted daily in the *Financial Times* and the *Daily Telegraph*. Trustees: The Royal Bank of Scotland plc. Investment Managers: N. M. Rothschild, Asset Management Ltd. Managers: Gresham Unit Trust Managers Ltd., 2-6 Prince of Wales Road, Bournemouth BH4 9HD. Registered Number (1719044). Dealing Department: Gresham Unit Trust Managers Ltd., 9/17 Perry Mount Road, Haywards Heath, West Sussex RH16 1TA.

The trusts are authorised by the Department of Trade and Industry and are wider range investments as defined under the Trustee Investment Act 1961. Offer not open to residents of the Republic of Ireland.

14% BONUS OFFER UNTIL 20th JUNE 1985

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I/We enclose a cheque for £ (Minimum investment for both trusts is £1,000) made payable to Gresham Unit Trust Managers Ltd. which I/we wish to invest in the Gresham Global Growth Unit Trust ☐ (Rothschild) Gresham Income Unit Trust ☐

Reinvestment of existing shares Please tick here if you wish to receive further information on reinvesting an existing portfolio of shares without incurring the usual costs. ☐

DECLARATION

I/We declare that I am/we are over 18 years of age.

Signature(s)

(In the case of joint applicants all must sign.)

Date

Please send details to:

Surname (Mr/Mrs/Ms)

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هكذا من الأصل

OVERSEAS PROPERTY

Relaxing, Andalucian-style

The sales of holiday flats in Spain are causing developers and agents to emphasize the importance of a scheme's facilities and rental potential just as much as the value of the property itself.

To alleviate some risk from the developers' point of view a popular trend now is to sell a development "off-plan", either completely or in phases, before building works start. Before any commitment to purchase is finalized, it is essential to consult a solicitor.

Michael Soul Associates, the London-based solicitors specializing in Spanish law, say the developer must provide a bank guarantee or special insurance policy against possible failure to complete the scheme.

Michael Soul adds: "Agents cannot purport to offer independent legal advice so independent searches must be made. On completed projects it is necessary to check that the development is properly registered and, before signing any contract, that the proposed purchase is free of mortgage so that the title deed can be registered." Allow 8 per cent of the purchase price for this registration.

Graham Maynard, president of El Capistrano Villas, started building his first Andalucian-style village some 14 years ago.

Today, three complexes, each with around 500 villas, are completed and have been sold. A fourth, the 150-unit Oasis de Capistrano, not due for completion for at least another year, has 50 homes still available, selling off-plan at prices averaging £40,000 for a two-bedroom villa.

Planning permission is being finalized for a fifth village, Los Fuentes de Capistrano, a large beachside development of about 800 units. The El Capistrano villas are located near Nerja, a fishing town 30 miles east of Malaga in the foothills of the Sierra Almijar and about an hour's drive from Granada.

The first village, consisting of small, irregularly shaped whitewashed houses clustered around mature gardens and paved walkways has every amenity, both for holiday-makers and permanent residents.

Most important, especially for the investor who may have long-term retirement plans, is the 24-hour medical service with a twice-daily



Villas at El Capistrano in traditional Andalucian style

doctor's surgery. The supermarket also stocks chemists' items. Other commercial facilities include a travel agency, hairdressers and clothes and souvenir shops. There is a full management and rental service, maid and laundry facilities and a constant private security patrol force.

The villas are compact, mainly one or two bedrooms with fully fitted kitchens and all have a private garden or patio. There is a constant selection of realises starting from around £25,000 for one bedroom and £45,000 for a fully-furnished two-bedroom unit. Maintenance fees average a reasonable £500 a year.

San Juan de Capistrano, the third village, has a spectacularly designed leisure club due for completion during this summer and £1,000 will buy a 10-year family membership.

Details: El Capistrano Sales, 173 Wardour Street, London W1V 3TA. Tel: 01-439 4563.

It is also possible to buy timeshare weeks at El Capistrano with prices ranging from around £900 for a low-season winter week to some £3,000 for a week in August.

Details: Asset International Ltd, 43 Old Bond Street, London W1X 3AF. Tel: 01-493 3373.

Most leisure complexes are situated to the west of Malaga where one of the more popular areas is the Nueva Andalucia Estate. Its proximity to the yachting facilities at Puerto Banus, half a mile away, plus having its own golf courses, make this part of the coast an excellent choice for the sportsman.

Aldes Blanca is a particularly striking apartment complex, consisting of 215 studios, one, two and three-bedroom units with both new and resale property available £28,000 for a studio to £81,000 for a large three-bedroom flat.

The Moorish-style apartments are built in staggered blocks around a large pool on a high-rise site with views over the Mediterranean and all have terraces, fully equipped kitchens with dishwasher, working fireplaces in the sitting rooms and air conditioning.

Details: Warrior Estates, 2a Harker Street, London SW3 2LG. Tel: 01-581 8021.

Diana Wildman

Village homes to suit your pocket

Finding low-priced property along the Andalucian coast is becoming increasingly difficult, but at Sabinillas, 12 miles west of Estepona, is the large Punta Almira scheme - 14 blocks of apartments, each incorporating 18 one, two and three bedroom units.

The apartments all have balconies, the larger ones two. All bedrooms

have fitted wardrobes and a swimming pool is due to be finished later this year. Because there are no other facilities at Punta Almira, apart from some lovely Moorish-style gardens and private car parking, the purchase prices are extremely low, starting at £14,000 for one-bedroom, £18,000 for two and from £19,000 for a three-bedroom unit. Service charges starting

at £170 a year. Sabinillas is a unspoilt fishing village with a wide sandy beach and many local shops. There are four golf courses within a 15-minute drive and Puerto Duquesa marina is a 10-minute walk away. Details are available from Leslie Ayling, 5 Casemates House, Casemates Square, Gibraltar. Tel: 78643.

OVERSEAS PROPERTY

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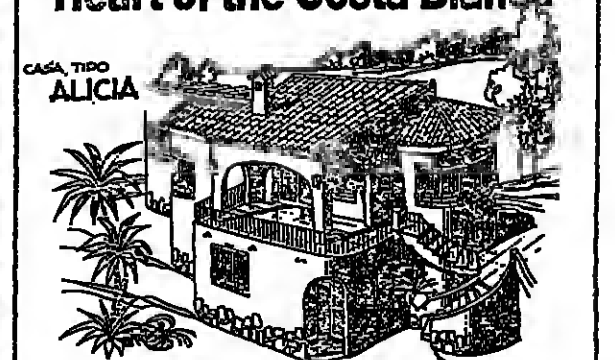
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June 8 - 14 1985

SATURDAY

A weekly guide
to leisure, entertainment
and the arts

Pitching in for Britain

American baseball, modelled on our game of rounders, is
making a come-back in Britain. Ivo Tennant
meets the young enthusiasts claiming the sport as their own

They certainly look the part, these City Slick Sidewinders, with their baggy 1950s uniforms, chunky caps and air of men about to embark upon the most searching of sporting battles. This, however, is not the Yankee Stadium and its huge, baying crowd but Regent's Park in London on a drizzling Sunday afternoon. The pitch is a piece of unkempt grass sited next to a park entrance. This is the British way of baseball. The club being in its infancy, the technique of its members lacks refinement. They are enthusiasts, not experts. Tap edges sail over the netting behind the batter, endangering many an unsuspecting nanny wheeling her charges through the otherwise tranquil park. This afternoon, though, there is a more pressing matter: will the opposition turn up?

Awaiting a team from Reading, the Sidewinders continue with their practice, whooping and hollering. They are friends and friends of friends barely out of their teens, yet hankering back to the 1950s when, they say, they would rather have lived. Their uniforms, redolent of the age, were imported from Italy at a cost of £110 apiece. Hair-styles are short and slicked back.

Even their girlfriends dress 1950s-style, complete with pom-poms, cheerleading and chants, which they practise at home during the week. The secretary, Vivian Smivert, whose boyfriend, Liam Sproule, is the founder, does two hours' paperwork on the club's affairs each evening. "The girls would be left out otherwise," she said. "We could play softball or rounders, but the boys would not join in."

So, to the astonishment of passers-by, the chants ring out in the rain. On the pitch - if it can be called that - as the grass has not been cut, rendering the ball's bounce lethal to life and limb - there is one authentic, American accent to be heard.

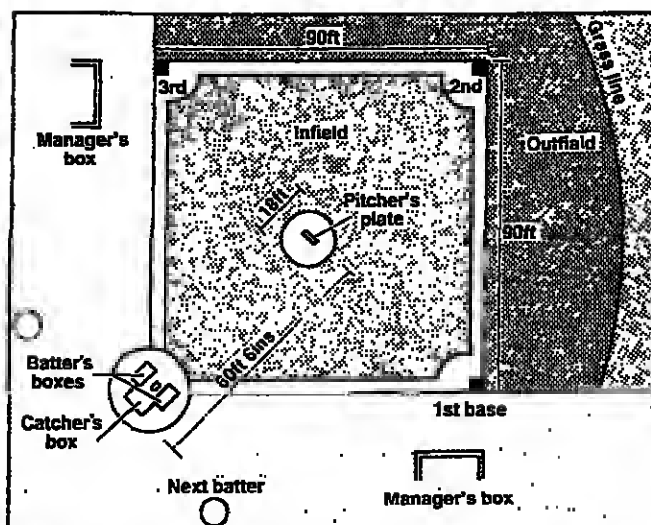
Edward Focher, a businessman from Moatana, coaches the team voluntarily and peripatetically. He sports a greco felt hat with a feather in it, very much the Yankee Doodle. He speaks of "polishing technique" and "getting into game strategy".

He has coached in the United States where children play almost before they can walk, so



Battle stations: The City Slick Sidewinders get a pre-match briefing before the game in Regent's Park. Top strip: The art of pitching the ball

How to play the field in a striking game



Baseball is played on a shell-shaped field with a 90ft square (known as the diamond) marked at the tip. A base is set at each corner. The area within the square is the infield. Beyond the bases but between the two foul lines is the outfield.

There are nine players on each side: one fielder and eight bats. The objective is to score more runs than the opposition. The leather-covered cork ball is hurled at the batter who aims to hit it with a 3ft wooden bat. A run is scored by moving from where he stands, home base, through the other three bases and back to home. A batter's "good" hit pitches which land in the strike zone. He is allowed three strikes before he is out. He reaches a base safely if he beats a fielder's throw, and can return to home base either in one attempt - a home run - or, more usually, stopping at bases on the way. He can be out in other ways, the most prominent of which is to be caught.

If a batter hits a home run when the bases are loaded, in other words when there are runners on first, second and third bases, they all get home. A run is scored for each batter that gets home. The team bats until three players are out. Then it goes into the field. A game consists of nine innings, a typical scoreline at the top level of British play being 10-5. In the United States it would be 5-2.

forgetting to run when batting. Others cooort in muscular pain when straining their bodies with the wrong throwing action.

One hot-headed Venezuelan left after one game, unable to come to terms with the strategy of his more reserved English colleagues. In the netter regions of the third division City Slick Sidewinders are not always guaranteed opposition. Reading turned up an hour late with seven men and no uniforms.

"Play ball", the words that excite fans around the world, take on a different connotation in Britain. Which does nothing to dampen the ardour of the young men who turn out in their 1950s gear, in the rain, in Regent's Park.



SATURDAY
Around the world
in thrifty ways -
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he does not shower praise lightly. "When I saw these guys I just stood there with my mouth open", he said. "They were a lot better than I expected, and they have fun. See, the third baseman arrived before I did."

City Slick Sidewinders were founded nine months ago by a group of young friends without previous sporting ambition or interest. They entered the South of England third division (in which most participants are British as opposed to the predominance of Americans in the first) and are now playing such splendidly named clubs as Croydon Borough Pirates,

Southampton Shooters and Toobridge Bobcats. To their modest way, the Sidewinders are part of the British baseball revival which started about five years ago. The first English baseball association was formed as long ago as 1890. The game was played mainly by working-class people in the Midlands and North, their clubs often affiliated to football teams. This explains why Derby County's headquarters was (and still is) the Baseball Ground.

Games would draw several thousand spectators and players were paid, though nothing like the fortunes received by baseball stars in the United States. The Second World War put a stop to British baseball progress and it did not pick up again afterwards. Now, after a gap of more than 30 years, it has.

It is natural to think of baseball as an American game, and the Americans themselves have gone to great lengths to claim it as their own. In the early part of the century a commission of inquiry was set up to prove the game's exclusively American origin and found its hero in one Colonel Abner Doubleday, who in 1839 was credited with coining the name baseball and laying down the rules.

For decades this was the accepted wisdom and the centenary of baseball was celebrated in 1939. In that very year, however, there emerged a powerfully dissenting voice. Robert W. Sanderson, a New York librarian, started digging into baseball's origins and, finding the roots of the game not in the Mohawk Valley but in 18th-century England, he largely discredited the Doubleday legend.

There seems little doubt that most of the elements of baseball - batter, pitcher, catcher, bases - were present in a popular children's game of the period. There is a baseball reference in Jane Austen. And, whisper it not to the Chicago White Sox - or even the City Slick Sidewinders - the words "baseball" and "rounders" were virtually interchangeable.

All the same, it was the 19th-century Americans who took the game over and made it their own. In England, rounders, similar in principle but using a softer ball and a shorter bat, became a favourite game at girls' schools. But if the English did give America baseball in the first place, it is not inappropriate that the Sidewinders and their like should be claiming it back.

Still, the rules are more complex than those for rounders, not easy to pick up in a casual afternoon's watching. The same can be said for the language. A home run is a dinger. A pitcher does not throw

the ball in hard but brings it. In Japan, where baseball has been the national game for almost as long as it has in the United States, the word to note is *waza*, which means total dedication to the team at the sacrifice of individual glory and money.

Salaries in the United States began to rise dramatically in the 1960s, were given their uniforms by Italians and a carrier bag for their sandwiches from their treasurer. What would



Sporting life: Alan Smith, a former star now playing for fun

A warrior armed with bat and ball

Alan Smith was 23 before he had heard of baseball, let alone seen it played. One summer's day in 1979 he stood watching a practice match and was impressed by the intricacies of the game. He joined London Warriors and was coached by the five founding Americans. Blessed with an eye for a ball, a few years later he was one of the leading players in Britain.

Rather as Sir Robert Menzies organized his trips to Britain to coincide with Test matches, so Smith, a publisher, has arranged visits to the United States that fitted in with the baseball season. In six years he has been there 15 times watching players who, on average, earn more than \$200,000 (£157,500) per annum. Smith plays each Sunday on a council ground at Barnes and thrived once a year for nothing. "To play baseball costs me £150-£200 a year", said Smith. "London Warriors are lucky because we receive sponsorship - few teams do. We have personal contacts. If the game was supported in this country,

England could compete with the best in Europe. At present, sports shops are the main sponsors."

Smith had an England trial a few years ago. "I sucked it up. I was not impressed with the way the team was run. I am good enough to play now but the accent is on youth so I stay fit and play for the enjoyment. I intend to keep going. We have a player of 54 who can still manage short bursts of speed. It is not necessary to be a sprinter."

"Baseball requires a lot more concentration than any other team sport I have played. It is a snappier game than cricket and more tense. I played cricket at school and could field, bowl and throw a ball which helped me in baseball, but one had to re-adjust in other ways. I had to change my method of catching - in baseball the ball is caught in the web of the hand. If one tried to do that fielding in cricket, it would be a spilled chance."

What about someone who claims that rounders is a finer game? "We call an ambulance", said Smith.

HOME BASE

The British Amateur Baseball and Softball Federation administers the game in this country from Hull, and welcomes any inquiries to join clubs. The European B Championships, which Britain participates in, are sometimes staged in this country.

There are at present approximately 75 clubs in Britain. These are self-financing, although the northern Sports Council aids the game in the north. Areas of the country where baseball is making particular progress are Scotland, Devon, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear, and Somerset.

Matches are usually played on Sunday afternoons and last for about three hours. They are staged in parks, on council grounds and in sports stadiums. The only essential equipment you need when joining a club is a glove. That, plus boots with flat plates, a uniform and team dues will cost between £100 and £150.

Baseball, which is centred in the United States, was a test sport at last year's Olympics and it is hoped that it will become a full sport at the next Games, in 1988.

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TRAVEL

Edited by Shona Crawford Poole

Around the world in thrifty ways: Budget breaks from Manhattan to Menorca that won't burn a hole in your pocket

Late search for a spot in the sun

Low cost holidays in high season may seem an impossible combination, but there are exceptions. Anyone looking now for an inexpensive peak period holiday will find a range of choices in the spots not already booked by early bookers. It is going to be hard to find a place in the sun if your choice is the Greek Islands, Yugoslavia or Portugal's Algarve coast. Even the Atlantic coast of France, a popular area for family camping holidays, is heavily booked in July and August.

None the less, setting a price limit of £200, I came up with the following examples of high season holidays. One week in August at the Hotel Santa Monica at Santa Monica, Menorca, with Thomas Cook for £193, inclusive of flights, transfers and half board.

Horizon's Pricebeaters scheme offers similar possibilities but on different conditions. A booking determines the departure and destination airports, the accommodation standard and meal arrangements. On arrival the company tells the client which resort and hotel or

apartment has been allocated. With this degree of flexibility Horizon offers seven nights half board in a two star hotel on the Costa Dorada, Spain, for £198 in early July.

On Italy's Adriatic Riviera, Horizon has one week half board holidays in two star hotels for £199 with mid and late July departures.

With Thomson Holidays £197 will stretch to a two week full board holiday on the Costa Dorada under the company's Price Buster programme. This price is available on late June and early July departures.

If £200 for a self-catering holiday is a self-imposed limit, a wide choice of two-week breaks can be found. Suggestions include 14 nights at the Casa Eulalia, Ibiza for £188 with Thomas Cook in August. In Menorca Horizon offers a fortnight's self-catering at £194.

A week's holiday for £100 or less sounds too good to be true, consider the possibilities offered by the Helpful Holiday Agency, specialists in cottages in the West Country.

Reverend one of the finest examples of medieval Devon longhouses on Dartmoor. It is about a mile from Chagford, sleeps seven and costs £193 a week in July and August - that is just £27.50 a week each. And not all the Helpful Holiday Agency's inexpensive properties sleep large numbers. Cottages for two at £90 a week in July or August can be found too. One, at a hamlet called Black Dog, about 10 miles from Tiverton in Devon, is in farmland.

Shona Crawford Poole
Thomas Cook Holidays: 0733 63200; Horizon Pricebeaters: 021-643 2727; Thomson Holidays: 01-387 5521; Helpful Holiday Agency: 06473 3893.

If you fancy covering a specific area then look for one of the increasingly popular regional airports. For example,

West Coast airlines PSA and Air Cal give you 30 days' complete freedom of their networks for just £151 each. While over on the East Coast, New York Air's £141 deal lets you cover tourist destinations like New York, Boston, Washington, New Orleans and Florida.

In fact the most rewarding aspect is that you effectively become your own travel agent. The airline gives you a booklet of flight coupons enabling you to book your flights as and when you want, when the booklet runs out, you are given another.

Most other airlines are less generous with their more restricted airport deals which are in the form of coupons. Each coupon gives one confirmed flight per destination either direct or via a connecting point, in which case one coupon covers two flights. With this method you choose your route and the number of flights and pay accordingly.

The major airlines such as American, United or TWA have the most expensive airport passes but they also have widespread networks with plenty of non-stop flights, so you can cover ground quickly. Airpasses from the smaller carriers often work out to be better value only so long as you can fit in with their flight schedules; this often means having to change planes and travel via circuitous routings.

Other points to remember. Depending on the airline you have between seven and 90 days to use your airport pass. Some companies impose a surcharge during the summer peak while others have blackout dates at holiday times - check before you book. To study all the possibilities it is essential to obtain timetables and route maps. All the airlines mentioned here have offices in the

UK and remember that you must buy your airport pass before you leave the UK.

Here are some suggestions to narrow your choice:

- For East Coast coverage: TWA, US Air, Piedmont or New York Air.
- For West Coast coverage: consider the passes of PSA or Air Cal.
- Best value for a simple coast-to-coast, border-to-border routing is Ozark's three-flights pass. For example, £215 takes you New York-San Diego-St. Louis-Atlanta-New York.
- Best value for extensive travel: unlimited passes offered by Northwest or Republic.
- For covering long distances in a short time, consider American, United, TWA, Pan Am and other major airlines.
- For coast-to-coast travel if you have time: US Air, Continental, Western or Piedmont.

Canadian airpasses are more limited in scope. There are only three options: Air Canada, CP Air and regional carrier Pacific Western. The first two fly coast-to-coast with transborder flights to the USA, while Pacific Western flies extensively within western Canada and as far east as Ontario. Its £195 four-flight pass would take you: Vancouver - Calgary - Winnipeg - Edmonton - Vancouver.

Alex McWhirter
The author is Travel Editor of Business Traveller.



Ahead for heights: The East River, Brooklyn Bridge and Long Island from the top of the World Trade Center

B and B with Uncle Sam



Bed and Breakfast in Manhattan? But where among the skyscrapers do you find the welcoming B&B signs, the mummy landladies in print frocks, the comfy semis by the sea and the reassuringly "real English" bacon, sausage, eggs, toast and tea?

Quite simply, you don't. What you do find - both here and throughout the United States - is a unique, rapidly growing and typically American style of B&B.

Welcoming signs are noticeable by their absence: in skyscraper-dominated central cities they are obviously impractical, elsewhere they are shunned for lowering the tone of the neighbourhood or for attracting the wrong kind of "guests".

Here mummy landladies have often been transformed into writers, actresses, bankers, psychiatrists and even opera singers who take in guests for fun, to fill up rooms vacated by divorced husbands or by grown-up children, to help promote their cities or areas - and for extra income.

In New York City the beds they offer may be in chic penthouses by the East or Hudson Rivers, fashionable Greenwich Village walk-ups, SoHo artists' lofts or Victorian mansions in Brooklyn Heights. Elsewhere B&Bs can be found in major cities such as Boston, Chicago, Atlanta, Denver and San Francisco; in mountain, ski, desert and beach resorts; in some of British Colonial America's most his-

toric towns and in romantic Southern mansions, townhouses or plantations. Breakfast may be buffet, do-it-yourself or served in considerable style, say on the magnolia-shaded terrace at Natchez, Mississippi or on a roof terrace overlooking San Francisco Bay. The menu could well be "real English" or something relatively exotic: pancakes and maple syrup in New England; cream cheese, bagels and lox in Manhattan or watermelon, eggs, grits, hash browns and ham in the South.

Only one thing is predictable on both sides of the Atlantic. B & B is good value for money when compared to hotel or motel accommodation.

How do you find these gems? You contact the state or local tourist board for the area you wish to visit, purchase one of the numerous regional or national B & B guide books or, perhaps best of all, contact a B & B reservations service recommended by the appropriate tourist board.

New York City has at least two reservations agencies: Urban Ventures and The Bed and Breakfast Group (New Yorkers at Home) Inc. Urban Ventures alone represents some 500 properties with prices ranging from \$23-\$50 (£18-£39.35), single; \$32-\$75 (£24.50-£59), double, often including private baths. By comparison, most New York hotels offer nothing less than \$50 per night, single.

Among the selections are "an enormous SoHo loft, owned by an artist who does museum-quality tapestries", a 21st-floor West 87th Street apartment shared with an actress and two

cats, and even a whole penthouse apartment in the midst of the Lincoln Center area.

We choose a spacious first floor apartment in the East 80s. Our room was attractive with private bath; breakfast included a choice of coffee or tea, cereal, English muffins or croissants and fresh fruit or juice and evening cocktails were served on the patio.

A divorced wife with a daughter away in boarding school, our bossy but taken in guests not

moderation. Their listings can make fascinating reading. For instance, The Bed and Breakfast Group (New Yorkers at Home) lists one B & B owned by a pediatric nurse and computer salesman (both ski and white water enthusiasts) which includes a jacuzzi and an upper bedroom reached by a captain's ladder. Another, near Lincoln Center, invites you to share television "after a long day sightseeing" with a "lovely Romanian Israeli widow" who speaks five languages. And a third, featuring an indoor pool, is reached by the Roosevelt Island aerial tramway.

"It's always such a pleasure to have British guests," enthused one of the hostesses. "For even though they began 'Bed and Breakfast, they always seem to find it so fascinating here'."

No wonder, for where in Britain would a B & B offer grits for breakfast, dry martinis for tea, a shared dip in the family jacuzzi or indeed an evening of television with a lovely, multi-lingual New York Romanian Israeli widow?

Mary Moore Mason
TRAVEL NOTES

For further information about New York B & B contact the State of New York Division of Tourism, 25 Bedford Square, London, WC1B 2HS. (01-637 7581). Urban Ventures Inc. is at P.O. Box 426, New York, N.Y. 10024 (212-594-5650) and The B & B Group (New Yorkers at Home) Inc. is at 301 East 90th Street, N.Y. 10022 (212-338-7015). Bed and Breakfast National Network is at P.O. Box 162, Oradell, Pennsylvania, 19075 (212-885-0991).

many of the extra money but to meet new and different people. The majority of her guests were American business people and tourists but had included a Tunisian delegate to the United Nations, a British "rag trader" based in Paris and a Greek cultural attaché.

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French leave on a few francs a day

Yes, France on £10 a day is entirely possible, and with room for gluttony and indulgence, as I know from three months on the road. True, this budget assumes a lot of hitch-hiking, walking or cycling, but that need not be a hardship. The motorist of course would have to add the running costs of the car, but he does enjoy the advantage of greater mobility and the ability to carry more camping equipment peacefully, which if you are two or more and do your own cooking greatly reduces expenditure on food.

Don't try to cover huge distances. Keep away from main roads and cities. Choose a small area to explore and don't be in a hurry. Who minds spending a whole day travelling 30 miles in the Dordogne or Pays Basque? If no cars pass, take a nap in the shade or dangle your toes in the stream. You learn far more moving slowly in a limited area than ever you do watching the trucks roar by some Spaghetti Junction, as so many young travellers do. Internationals too should beware of racketing about from city to city. You may make £600-worth of journeys in a month, but what have you seen?

"Who minds spending a whole day in the Dordogne?"

Practically every town and village in France has one or more camp sites, often in the prettiest locations. Campings municipaux are the cheapest at about 5fr per adult and 2.50fr the tent (5fr more for a car). Run by the local councils, they provide hot showers at no extra charge and are always adequately clean. In the more expensive sites you pay for amenities of no interest to the bird of passage. Never camp on private property without asking; the consequences could be dire.

Another form of cheap accommodation available in the country are Gîtes d'étapes (hikers' hostels) at 30fr, located in villages on the long-distance (GR) hiking trails. Anyone can use them. They are marked on the large scale maps, but tourist offices will tell you where they are.

Numerous hotels have rooms in the 50-65fr range. In towns they are generally concentrated near the railway stations. As the price is usually the same for one or two people, for couples they are an attractive alternative to Youth Hostels, which currently charge 26fr per person plus breakfast (8fr). In many towns you can also put up at the rather better appointed Foyers de Jeunes Travailleurs/Travailleurs for about 35fr.

So let's say 10fr for a night's camping, which leaves 10fr for food and extras. I spent 10-15fr on breakfast: coffee, a couple of croissants or bread, butter and jam. It is no good hankering after bacon and eggs; you have to go native.

At lunchtime I picnicked, for not more than 20fr, mostly

buying just enough for one meal. No one grumbles at you for buying small quantities. Half a baguette costs a little more than a franc, a tomato and some fruit (a couple of peaches, an orange) 5 or 6fr. Buy in the markets whenever possible and buy what is in full season.

A quarter kilo of cheese, enough for two picnics, costs 10-12fr: a small saucisson, enough for four picnics, about 17fr. Its advantage is that it keeps, Camembert and cousins, on the other hand, do not. Better to buy hard cheeses, Emmenthal and the numerous varieties of *tomme*.

In the evenings I indulged myself. It is never hard to find restaurants with four-course menus between 40 and 55fr. They are seldom short of satisfying and sometimes excellent. Be wary of wine, though. It is usually extra. If you can't get a *miel* - a quarter of half litre jug of *ordinaire* - it is best to abstain, even a half-bottle of indifferent plonk will set you back 20fr or so. Brasseries are a good alternative to restaurants.

My food bill could easily be cut to leave money for the odd bus or hotel. Cooking for yourself is the cheapest option. Youth hostels and *gîtes d'étapes* have cooking facilities and

many youth hostels provide good meals for about 28fr. Most charcuteries and supermarkets sell excellent take-away: salads from 25-40fr a kilo, stuffed tomatoes, *paella*, *poulet basquaise* (half a chicken) for 21fr. I found I could have a blow-out for around 35fr. And there are always affordable luxuries like half a dozen oysters for 4fr on the Atlantic coast or a *coquille St Jacques* for 10fr, so you don't feel you are missing out on the joys of French cuisine.

My last piece of advice would be to avoid the peak holiday period from mid-July to mid-August. Camp sites are crowded; youth hostels can be full. Prices are high, lifts are harder to get and local people are too busy ringing the till to talk to you.

Tim Salmon

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TRAVEL NOTES

Special travel packages to the mid-Wales region are being laid on by British Rail and National Express this summer.

British Rail offers return travel to the area plus eight days' unlimited travel in mid-Wales by bus, coach, air, rail - including the area's narrow-gauge steam railways - from £30. Similar packages from National Express cost from £28.50 for eight days or £36 for 15 days.

The Mid-Wales Development Board is also offering visitors a booklet of vouchers giving discounts on visitor attractions, available from the board at Ladywell House, Newtown. Powys SY16 1JB (0686 26965).

On the house
Lunn Poly customers who book a June holiday at a selection of hotels operated by the Liberal group in mainland Spain, the Balearics and the Canaries will qualify for vouchers worth £9 per person per week which can be used to help pay their drinks bill.

Take in a tattoo
Contiki, which specializes in touring holidays for the 18-35 age group, is putting on a series of budget-price short breaks taking in special events like the Edinburgh Tattoo and the Munich beer festival in September. The four-day Edinburgh tour in August costs £82. A nine-day tour to Munich is priced at £99. Information from Contiki on 01-637 2121.

Double time in Germany
Longship Holidays, operated by the Danish Shipping line DFDS Seaways, is offering special prices for short breaks at two holidays centres in Germany for departures up to June 25. Prices start at £50 for a four-night holiday with two nights on board the Harwich-Hamburg ferry and two nights at either the Gartow or Glücksburg holiday centres. A six-night holiday costs from £70. There is a £25 reduction for children under 16, while cars go free.

Philip Ray

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also on page 2

SHOPPING

By Beryl Downing

GOOD BUYS

The name's the game

They will be naming names in Blenheim Street next week. Phillips are auctioning an interesting collection of art nouveau objects and jewellery - and the most important consideration will be the designers' names.

"We spend ages trying to find out who makes a piece, or even if it can be attributed to someone," says Keith Baker, head of the art nouveau department. "It was a period when designers were very important and a name makes a lot of difference to the price."

A very functional, silver-plated toast rack, for instance, which looks art deco or even 1950s, but in fact is a very avant-garde 1878 piece, will probably reach £1,200 because it was made by Christopher Dresser. Josef Hoffmann's painted, metal flower vase with a hoop handle, Charles Rennie Mackintosh's watercolour of a rhododendron and Henry Van de Velde's tortoiseshell-handled

caviar knife will also be in the £1,000 class. Ceramics, too, will attract serious collectors. There is a splendid Clarice Cliff jug painted with stylized trees and hills, estimate £600-£800 and a Bernard Moore ruby red flambé jardinière painted with herons at the same estimate. Doullon is becoming popular with American collectors - partly because it is named and documented. If it is "in the book", at least you know what you are getting however ugly it may be, and this does sometimes apply to character jugs of which they are particularly fond. Those in the sale include some unusual items. George Robey, with a distinctly beaky nose, will probably make £80 to £100 and Mephisophiles, leering wickedly on one side and sullenly downcast on the other, may reach £1,000. Not everything is in the hundreds. Among the less expensive items is a charming pair of hand-painted Doullon talenase vases by Mary Denley estimated to bring £80 to £120 (one is illustrated), a Lalique bowl with stylized leaf forms £80 to £200 and a selection of figurines from £40.

The sale is on Thursday from 11am at Phillips, 7 Blenheim Street, London W1. Viewing - Tues, Wed, 8.30am-4pm.



Sale selection: Doullon talenase vase, and head and shoulders of George Robey figure

Spectacular opportunity

"Prices are bound to rise" was the cry when the new regulations governing opticians came into force in April. In fact the opposite has happened. Last week I had a pair of spectacles made up for less than I have ever paid - £11.50. The frames were free.

Now you and I know that nothing in life is free, so the price has to be absorbed somewhere. The way this new company, Spectacles, is doing it is by volume sales. They buy in bulk, second-hand, or perfect frames in bulk from Hong Kong, Europe and America and have a huge stock to choose from. You can walk in with a pair of spectacles or your nose or your eyes in your hand and they will copy the lenses in an hour to fit any frame you choose.

Most were straightforward and so the minimum price. A pair of spectacles cost another £25, plastic frames from £16.50 and gold or gold-plated frames would be up to £50 a pair. Free replacement is guaranteed. Spectacles frames, minor damaged within one year.

Stephen Gould, the managing director, has been a dispensing optician since 1967 and his interpreting attitude to selling spectacles has caused a brush or two with the General Optical Council. They are not even likely to approve of the name of his new shops as they are not fond of jokey puns. But in spite of such a stuffy attitude, two Spectacles shops opened last week at the Riverdale

Centre, Lewisham and 49 High Road, Wood Green. In addition, branches in Hounslow, Bromley and Uxbridge will open by the end of June, more are planned for Central London by the end of the year and 20 throughout the country within 18 months.

All will be staffed by qualified dispensing opticians. You will not be able to get an eye test, but this is still free at any optician and you are entitled to take your prescription away with you. With luck, the type of operation will be the answer to the existence of non-qualified people selling spectacles, which could be a result of the new laws. In a recently publicized case "off the page" reading glasses were offered for £15 - more than the Spectacles's custom made lenses.

"I believe it is not a good idea to allow non-qualified people to dispense spectacles," says Stephen Gould. "People should have their eyes tested every one or two years, but many have left it for four or five because the cost of frames was so prohibitive."

"Our audience allows those options who don't want the hassle of selling frames to get on with the prescription side, like doctors. Several have said they would like to open up next door to us - we sell the frames and do the advertising, they stick to the medical side. Things have to change. It's a business down change in five years you are doing something wrong. Our next move may be to open free-standing superstores specializing in optics with eye examinations franchised to self-employed opticians. See 8,000 square feet with a car park."

One thing is for sure: Myopia is not one of Stephen Gould's problems.

Crafty looks at the Arabs

The Middle East is giving both an economic boost and artistic inspiration to a resurgent section of British industry

A glittering Arabian palace and a rural Oxfordshire barn have about as much in common as Joan Collins and Little Dorrit. But on either side of the geographical gulf, both have been helping some terminally ill British crafts to a full recovery. The Middle Eastern market is an extremely demanding one, but it offers rich pickings to those companies who take the trouble to understand it. Among them are Blanchards, the Sloane Street interior designers, who since their foundation in 1972 have made such a success of their overseas commissions that this month they will be going public.

Before they reached that peak they had a fairly rocky climb. Their budding business nearly foundered when a large Portuguese venture collapsed in the 1974 revolution. They also suffered from a gradual decline of Sloane Street between 1975 and 1980 when many traders went out of business.

In 1981 the area started to recover and empty shops were taken over by fashionable names. Blanchards, too, flourished, and they are now dealing in projects which average £200,000 to £500,000 and sometimes reach several million.

"Most people in the Middle East don't want to become involved with who is going to fix the plumbing," says Alexander Aldbrook, managing director of Blanchards. "They are looking for a company that will stick to an agreed price - if problems arise that's your responsibility - and to an agreed completion date."

"They are unique in not only seeking the best but in being prepared to pay for it. They have had a bad Press in this country, but you have to go back to the Medics to find anything like the resurgence of craftsmanship which they have brought about."

Notable among those crafts are fibrous plaster mouldings, gilding and decorative mirror-work - all dying skills 15 years ago.

Plasterers, for instance, had a bad time from the 1940s to 1960s, when people were ripping out cornices and covering everything with hardboard.

The nostalgic 1970s decided that anything old was better than everything new, and authentic restoration was the interior designer's creed. New companies like Hayles & Howe, ornamental plasterers, began to train a second generation of craftsmen.

Much of their work is for houses and flats - the restoration of a cornice, for instance, in



Steps to success: Philippa Kain, of Hayles & Howe, (right) Jacqueline Horsford gilds furniture

an average room which will cost about £500. But their competition with Blanchards and the Arab countries has brought not only more elaborate commissions, but new skills.

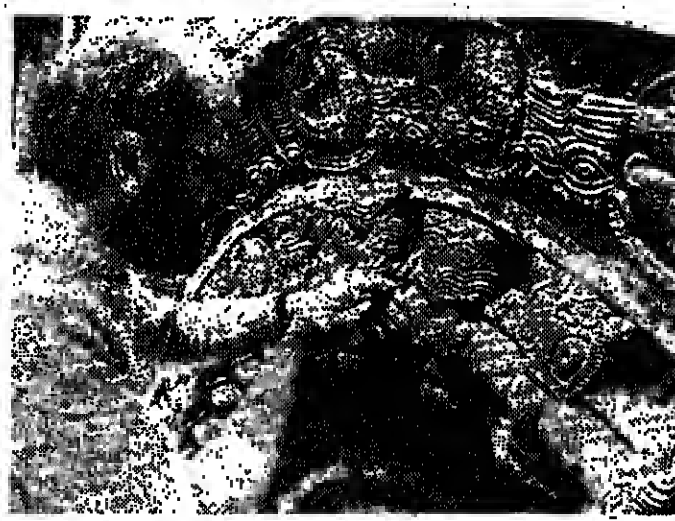
"It would be very boring simply to do reproductions all the time," says one of the company's partners, David Hayles. "The Arabs bring a completely different dimension to the work because we have to start from scratch, modelling and creating new designs."

"They also have a completely different tradition. Their plasterwork is not crisp and precise like an Adam ceiling but is still done in the style of the Alhambra - individual sections being full of wavy lines and mistakes, like a Persian carpet, but the whole a superb work of art. Our association with them has increased our craftsmen's artistic appreciation."

A family of much longer standing might also have declined had it not been for overseas commissions. T. & W. "Idc" was founded in 1830 as a builder's merchant and developed into mirror specialists through the invention of glass-bending by the great-grandfather of the present chairman, Rufus Idc.

They now produce spectacular glass screens and panels for palaces in Bahrain and hotels in Sri Lanka while the glass industry has shrunk round their until only about one third of its craftsmen are left.

Jacqueline Horsford, on the contrary, has recently taken on an apprentice to help her with the increasing amount of gilding



Sure touch: Michael Eastham, conservator of monuments

work. It is a slow, meticulous craft which was dying out because no one could afford to give it the necessary time.

Now it is in great demand in the restoration of mouldings in Arab palaces and in the re-gilding of furniture.

A lot of small studios like ours are being given our bread and butter by such commissions, which allows us to take on 16- to 21-year-old apprentices," she says. "Without an up-and-coming generation of craftsmen the skills would die out completely."

Employing young people by keeping the craft alive is also a by-product of Village Enterprise in Oxfordshire. In 1983 the craftspeople of five adjoining villages held an open week to show that the community spirit



the few women Master Saddlers in the country.

Also at Home Farm is Michael Eastham, who is a conservator of monuments and sculpture. His work has included the renovation of all the casts for the Ruskin Gallery in Sheffield.

All sorts of materials come under his expert eye - sandstone, limestone, marble and alabaster, plaster, wood, and bronze - and he undertakes work for collectors of small sculptures as well as for museums. His work is rather too rarefied to be augmented by the Village Enterprise scheme, but, he says, "People see us as an entertainment and the open week does spread the gospel."

As understanding is half-way to appreciation a craftsman can hardly ask for more, for there can be no more irritating question when you have whittled away several weeks of your life than "Why does it cost so much?"

Village Enterprise has now become a regular June fixture and last week attracted 10,000 visitors.

Sally Gault is one of the specialists who occupy the refurbished barns of Home Farm, Ardington. Five years ago after starting her own saddlery business she already has one Youth Opportunity apprentice and in September will be taking on another.

The workshop specializes in driving harness and made-to-measure bridles. Two years ago Sally won a prize for her harness in a competition run by the Worshipful Company of Coachmakers and Coach Harnessmakers and became one of

DESIGN FILE

Modern market

A new-style market in Edinburgh was this week awarded the £1,000 prize given by the National Association of Shopfitters to encourage good design.

The Waverley Market is in a unique position next to Waverley Station and the North British Hotel. The view across the valley is protected by an Act of Parliament of 1816 which imposed a height restriction above the street.

An out-of-ground produce market in Victorian times, the site became an eyesore when the market was demolished to make a car park. Now the new market is a landscaped plaza outside, and with only flagpoles and granite pinnacles breaking the height limit, the views across the valley are preserved.

Inside the market takes the form of a series of galleries, lit from above through glass roofs. There are no "anchor stores", which normally feature in modern shopping developments, but instead a high proportion of space is devoted to food outlets and small, high-grade shops.

A kit of parts was used for the shop fronts to allow individual identity within the overall design concept. The whole, designed by Building Design Partnership, Glasgow, was described by one of the judges - Jane Fraser, head of Industrial Design at the Design Council - as "an essay in professionalism".

CONSUMER NEWS

Shattering reports

Anyone thinking of buying a gas cooker with a glass lid should be aware that some are potentially dangerous, warns the Consumer Safety Unit of the Department of Trade and Industry.

The unit has received several reports of glass lids shattering when being closed inadvertently over a lit burner or even by coming into contact with the edge of a hot pan on the hob.

Any glass lidded cooker (not to be confused with ceramic hobs) should have four features: ● A cut-off device to turn off the gas when the lid is lowered. ● A gap at the hinge side of the lid so that pans in use do not touch the lid when it is upright. ● Toughened glass to British Standard 3193. ● A mechanism to prevent the lid from falling.

The Consumers' Association, which has been campaigning for years for increased safety measures for such cookers, also recommends that a top front of 70°C should be set for the metal fronts and sides of cookers below the hob and 90°C for glass viewing panels.

Anyone who owns a glass-topped cooker which does not have the recommended features is advised by the DTI Safety Unit to take great care to turn off all burners before lowering the lid, but those who have seen the horrifying pictures of shattering glass shown on BBC's *Breakfast Time* might consider it better to get rid of such cookers as soon as possible.

DRINK

Fruits of a Bordeaux miracle

A miracle took place in Bordeaux in 1978. Perhaps not quite in the same league as the harvest and sales but for the Bordeaux wine trade a remarkable event none the less. With so many millions of francs tied up in the wine business, every movement of the vine is monitored by the trade with a passionate and, often to an outsider, all too lenient devotion. Yet right from the beginning of the 1978 growing season even the Bordeaux were struggling to find a good word for the year.

To start with, 1977 had been a difficult year when many vines had suffered frost damage and all through the early part of 1978 there had been no restorative warmth. Spring was late too and when it eventually did come it brought little but cold, wet weather which set the vines back further still. Amid growing Bordeaux concern the flowering took place at long last around June 10 - about two weeks later than usual - in equally cold, unpleasant conditions.

The 1978 summer continued its inclement course and by the middle of August the wine men reckoned the vintage was three weeks behind schedule and even later than the disastrous 1977 vintage. It was then, when almost everyone had given up hope, that the miracle happened - the sun came out and it

continued to be hot and sunny right through to the inevitably late harvest which began on October 9. And apart from a bonafide bout of two rain in September, the months leading up to the harvest were the driest the Bordeaux had seen in 20 years.

The grapes too were picked in perfect condition, unusual for such a late harvest. And when the average-sized crop of 1978 red wines were finally assessed the following spring, everyone agreed that those properties who had waited until the grapes were fully ripe and picked late had made wines that had enough colour, fruit, tannin, body and acidity to make a good, if not great, vintage.

In retrospect the miracle last-minute vintage of 1978 was thought both by the Bordellais and the British to be one of the top three vintages of the 1970s alongside 1970 and 1975. But given such a difficult growing season no one was quite certain

DRINK NOTES

The 1978 clarets are still available on merchants' lists and the following all have a good selection: Adams, Sole Bay Brewery, Southwold, Suffolk; Corney & Barrow, 12 Helmet Row, London EC1; Tanners, 28 Wyle Cop, Shrewsbury; Lay & Wheeler, 6 Culver Street West, Colchester, Essex.

how the 1978s would develop or quite when they would be ready for drinking. Following on from last year's success in 1977 Bordeaux tasting, Sotheby's felt it was time to take a look at the '78s.

This excellently organized event took place over two days and I attended all four sessions amounting to some 93 wines. All clarets were tasted blind and at the first morning session we tasted the wines from the communes of St Julies and Pauillac. Although some good St Julien wines had been made, particularly Langou-Bartoo with its mature cedary-spice and the refined, elegant Brainsaire-Ducru, it was mostly a disappointing commune and even Ducru-Beaucailou did not show well.

Pauillac was just the reverse and had produced a magnificent range of wines from Les Portes de Latour's mature, truffley fruit through to Grand-Puy-Lacoste's big blackcurrant wine up towards the greats of Latour's massive, chunky, cassi-like '78 and Mouton-Rothschild's refined peppermint-cedary wine.

Session two tackled Margaux and the Haut-Médoc and from an impressive line-up of favourites were La Lagune's fine flowery '78, Prieuré-Lichine's big beefy wine followed by the inexpensive Malescot. Saint-Exupéry's charming richness and Rausan-Ségla's fragrant cedary wine. However the star turns of Margaux not surprisingly were Palmer's glorious rich, refined taste and to a lesser extent Margaux's restrained cedary elegance. By comparison the Graves were disappointing although I enjoyed La Mission-Haut-Brion's ripe style in preference to Haut-Brion's distinctive and unusual character.

Jane MacQuitty

GUERNSEY SURF SWEATERS

These stylish pullovers are perfect as extra warmth on summer evenings, as well as being invaluable for many outdoor sports such as sailing and hiking.

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THE TIMES

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Paperbacks

Perfection is in the love of the classics

The Greek Experience by G. M. Bowra (Waldenfield & Nicholson, £7.95)

Sir Maurice Bowra was notoriously more sparkling in conversation than on paper. Only the ghost of his brilliance survives. He did his writing extremely early in the morning. But he thought deeply about Greece and the Greeks, and constantly reread their writings. In his more popular works about them it was unkindly said that he wrote the same book six times.

"Ah, Maurice has written his book again." But it got better as he went on, and he distilled his wisdom, and his vast range of scholarship, into simple and sober pages that deserve to be mediated. Scholars prefer his essays and articles or his last, short book about Homer. His verse translation of Pindar is more useful than any book about that poet. But his classic statement was probably *The Greek Experience*.

He was an adventurous traveller in Greece more than 50 years ago, and a firm believer that constantly going there was an essential part of Greek scholarship. The photographs of art and archaeology that illustrated the original edition of *The Greek Experience* were an essential part of the book. As a paperback, it has lost its photographs, except for one vivid image on the cover. This



Durable: Maurice Bowra

is a hard test of his prose style, but the text does stand up on its own, and there is still no better summary in English of what the ancient Greeks were like and what they achieved, though it first appeared in 1957.

Most scholars are too fastidious to attempt this enormous, common sense task, and very few could carry it off. Sir Maurice Bowra had thought, felt and read more than most do. Old Professor Frankel once met him in the street and praised his articles, ending in German with "Perfection is in details, (Goethe)." Maurice replied in Russian, "Perfection is in love, (Pushkin)." He was proud of that encounter.

This book is full of simple sentences which at first reading look like casual sayings, but

they have a durable quality. "A people gets the gods which it deserves" is a good beginning. The paragraph that follows is both true and extremely funny. His observations are never less than sharp in chapter after chapter. Yet his basic perception of Greece and the Greeks is always the same. It is very unVictorian and invigorating. He likes Greek religion for its disorganization, its "generous freedom and inclusive tolerance", and he thinks that Greek artists learnt their sense of space from the natural patterns of the Greek landscape separated by sky and sea, which "allow to each its own character". His point of view is admirably personal.

The classics have always had different things to teach to different generations. Robert Lowell observed that part of their fascination is that they can never be absorbed. For Maurice Bowra they were a liberating force, something like the Russian spring. He spoke before anyone else did of "the place given to eros, which means in the first place passionate love, but extends its meaning far beyond physical desire to many forms of intellectual and spiritual passion".

This book is not only about the classics, it is about life, and how we ought to live.

Peter Levi

REVIEW



Legendary inspiration: Pegasus, the winged horse on which poets rode in Greek mythology

A time when death was commonplace

Death and the Enlightenment by John McManners, (Oxford University Press, £8.95)

There is a legend that when a servant lit a torch to the bedside of the dying Voltaire, the Enlightenment opened his eyes and asked "Des flammes?" — "dées!" The truth is more prosaic but equally characteristic. Having stated his belief in God to the cure, but carefully dodging the more pressing theological questions, Voltaire said simply, "Let me die in peace". Thus he settled his differences with the Church but did not entirely yield to it.

Despite its title, *Death and the Enlightenment* is by no means a gloomy book but the century in which Voltaire and his colleagues, the philosophes, were such controversial figures did have its grim side. Death from pneumonia, malaria, typhoid, typhus, dysentery and smallpox were commonplace. Buffon's calculation that half the population died before the age of eight was about right. Physicians, while recommending mercury for venereal disease and quinine for malaria, were slow to advance in a time of new ideas and continued to prescribe the more familiar old potions of powdered skull, human excrement, ground-up jewels, and fresh cow's urine.

In the early 18th century hunger, cold, the fear of disease and hellfire after death were

life, but as the century unfolded it slowly shed its quasi-medieval load to make way for ideas which we can recognize as belonging to our own time. Almost imperceptibly, a secularization of thought took place which made society look to itself rather than the Church for ways to a better life.

Funerals and deathbed scenes gradually became less elaborate, and less public. Wills were seen more as legal documents than as Christian testaments and money, formerly bequeathed for personal masses, went instead to charity.

In 1769, vaccination for smallpox became officially accepted and great improvements in municipal hygiene contributed to an astonishing population increase of 10 million by the end of the century. Another noteworthy development was the growing importance of the science of statistics. Imported from England and known as Political Arithmetic, it came to be considered a necessity "for good, certain and easy government".

Professor McManners has based his book on a wide-ranging exploration of diaries, letters, literature, ecclesiastical records, medical treatises and works by contemporary French historians.

This has resulted in a book which is a compendium of individual voices over 100 years. Laid out before us are the *bons mots*, gossip, advice, aphorisms, and statements of faith (or lack of it) of hundreds of human beings who hoped for the allotted span of 70 years but believed their chances, though improving, to be slim.

Cumulatively, the effect is as though we are overhearing the musings and murmurings of voices in another room or through a half-open door. If there is criticism to be made it is that for the general reader there are, perhaps, too many voices. Nevertheless, it must be emphasized that *Death and the Enlightenment* is a fascinating volume into archives of 18th-century France.

This remarkable century drew to a close with the extremism and bloodshed of the French Revolution. As the author says, we are still a long way from understanding the deep discontinuity between the rational scepticism of the *ancien régime* and the "lurid de-Christianization of the Terror".

Our own century has provided further testimony that we cannot yet manage our affairs. Illumination of the darker side of human nature is badly needed if we are to create the humane society which the philosophes of the Enlightenment looked forward to with such confidence.

Anne Barnes

Isabel Butterfield

Clear vision of a blind man

NON FICTION

Ved by Ved Mehta (Picador, £2.95) If you walk down Dover Street (OK, correction, if I walk down Dover Street) with Ved Mehta, I am more likely to bump into lamp-posts and little old ladies than he is. Fate, which made him blind as an infant, has given him extraordinary sensitivity to the world of sight out here, and he has taught himself an exact and endearing voice as a writer. Nobody, not even Edward Elgar, can so transmute the everyday events of life, and, of course, the life of a little blind Indian boy is not everyday. *Ved* is the third of the series of books he is writing about himself and his family, son of *David* and *Mumukshu*, predecessor of *The Ledge* and *Between the Streams* and ancestor we hope, of many more. It starts with Ved, not yet four and blind, leaving home for an Indian orphanage for the blind in Bombay, 900 miles away, where nobody spoke his native language. "I remember the train whistle. It blew with a rush of steam.... Without sentimentality or self-pity he recreates that vanished and

alien world in one of the richest works of memory of our century.

Purgatory, Vol II of *The Divine Comedy* by Dante, translated with an introduction, notes and commentary by Mark Musa (Penguin Classics, £2.95)

The *Purgatory* is less accessible than the *Inferno*, and less fun, dealing with the origins of sin rather than the fruits, and with theological argument more than with suffering but vivid sinners. Even Dante has difficulty in understanding what Beatrice is on about on occasions. Musa renders the Renaissance Italian into clear and dignified blank verse, with notes to help us climb the terraces of Mount Purgatory. I wish they could afford to print the text opposite the translation. *Purgatory* is a *salute a la pelle*... Roll on, Paradise.

As I Was Saying By C. H. Rolph (Police Review, £3.95)

Rolph is the sort of policeman who gives the force a good name. He has been scribbling for the *Police Review*, the *New Statesman*, *The Spectator* and *Punch* for 50 years, often but by no means always about police, criminal, criminological and prison matters. This is a small

selection from his journalism and the tone of voice is unmistakably humane, sensible, witty.

Letters 1931-68 by Jean Rhys, edited by Francis Wyndham and Diana Moly (Penguin, £4.95)

Anybody who has tried to scratch a living as a writer through penury, word block and loneliness should read these letters both as encouragement and awful warning. "Never lose heart. You are young and better things will happen..." Jean Rhys is disorganised, endearing, very open, funny and indomitable.

Something Wholesome by Eric Newby (Picador, £2.95)

We think of Newby as one of our First-Division travel writers, a team with which Britain leads the world. But before he started his short walk in the Hindu Kush he worked for 11 years as a rep in the rag trade in his family's *haute couture* firm. I don't know that you will learn much about fashion from this book (but then, is there anything worth knowing about fashion?), but it will make you giggle.

Philip Howard

No refuge in withdrawal

FICTION

Offside by Gisela Elser (Virago, £3.95)

Lilo Beeslein is not quite Madame Bovary, but she has some similar problems. She lives with her husband and baby daughter in middle-class, urban Germany and she is bored. She likes her daughter well enough but she does not want to devote herself wholly to motherhood and she is alienated both by her husband's expectation that she should do so, and by his competitive fatherliness. So she withdraws. Her life becomes emptier and she turns to tranquillizers to make routine jobs, a lover, only to find that all these refuges require her to face impossible decisions. It would be a depressing story if it were not done so coolly.

Old New York by Edith Wharton (Virago, £3.95)

In this set of four short novels, Edith Wharton writes about the rich families of New York in the 19th century. They see themselves as a sort of untitled aristocracy and adopt a strict social code in order to bolster their sense of their own superiority.

Edith Wharton is concerned with the way in which, in her world, power over money meant a stranglehold over people — and particularly women. Although she is not an outspoken feminist, in many of her descriptions of fashion and style she sees clearly the subtlety and variety of ways of keeping women firmly within a restricted social framework.

Success by Martin Amis (Penguin, £1.95)

This is a simple moral tale about two young men sharing a flat in the traditional Amis-land of Central Line London. Gregory is well off for every thing — money, good looks, sexual opportunity, exquisite taste — except any awareness of life beyond his immediate selfish little vanities.

Terry seems to have nothing. He wears horrible clothes, loses girlfriends, worries about baldness and bad breath. But he is meek enough to inherit the earth, or at least to make a bit of money and achieve his own sort of success, while Gregory slides sullenly into breakdown. It is an older and more weary novel than *The Rachel Papers* but the same corrosive wit illumines

the dark corners of post-adolescence.

G by John Berger (Chatto, £3.95)

G is an heroic figure. Born, four years after the death of Garibaldi, to an Italian businessman and his American mistress he was then brought up by relatives on an English farm. These discordant elements in his background enable him to greet the arrival of the 20th century with a freedom from inhibition and a sexual energy which reflect many of the aspirations of that unsettled period. When a man first flies a plane across the Alps he is there to watch. When war breaks out he is in Trieste. He lives life to the full, even going to his death almost as if it were another sexual experience.

When this novel won the Booker prize in 1972 it was praised for its structure, for the author's careful use of the storyteller's role. More striking now is the impressionistic quality of Berger's style which enables him to use both detail and sudden silence to convey his own particular sense of reality.

Anne Barnes

Isabel Butterfield

EATING OUT

Simplicity's singular attractions

Stan Hey extols the virtues of places that offer just one menu

The idea of dining out at an establishment offering only one menu might seem a little like playing "restaurant roulette" — the fateful chamber being filled by your least favourite dish. However, the single-menu approach is proving very popular.

From the restaurateur's point of view, it enables costs to be kept down and should allow the kitchen to concentrate its abilities. In theory, it means also that a chef will be stimulated by the challenge of creating a new menu every day. The benefits to the customer should translate accordingly.

Mr Underhill's, which is on the A140 between Ipswich and Diss, is run by a young couple, Chris and Judy Bradley, who have widespread catering experience (big hotels, fashionable London restaurants). They started with the one-menu system four years ago, as a matter of simple economics. Being a small, rural restaurant, it just could not support an extensive à la carte operation, so the Bradleys decided to make a virtue of their limitations.

Chris Bradley, the chef, is influenced mainly by the modern French masters and offers his versions of their dishes regularly. The fixed-price dinner menu (£15.95) includes four courses, coffee and home-made petits fours. You are told what it comprises when you make a reservation.

For starters, you should expect either an imaginative soup (curried pea, calalou (spinach), iced mango and papaya) or perhaps savoury hors d'oeuvres, which are international and can embrace Japanese-style raw fillet of beef with horseradish, the Scandinavian gravad lax (marinated salmon with a mustard sauce) and the French black pudding,



boudin noir, with onions in cassis.

Our own menu began with a storming soufflé sauté, cooked twice (once in the dish, once turned out) and served with a nicely-balanced cheese and mustard sauce. Main dishes that have proved popular include fillet of beef with a green peppercorn Béarnaise, fillet of turbot with a smoked salmon sauce, and supreme of pheasant in celery sauce.

The Bradleys have a good supplier of poultry, as our main dish, sliced supreme of duck with a light Cointreau sauce, proved. Third courses are unchanging, a smashing selection of top quality cheeses, from the shop of Shirley Webster Jones at Outon Broad in Norfolk, which are served with a massive, fresh salad.

For desserts the Hobson's Choice principle is abandoned and sorbets (apple and calva-do, poire, William, lime and avocado, for example) and ice

creams (honey and Armagnac, coffee, and *Tia Maria*) are available, as well as a freshly-baked tart (lemon, lime, banana, prune and Armagnac) or perhaps the restaurant's long-standing favourite, chocolate marquis with Dromedary sauce.

They provide an imaginative and reasonably-priced wine list, plus friendly but precise service. Clarke's, a London one-menu establishment which opened recently, has a distinctly more brittle atmosphere, brought about by what seems a rather self-conscious clientele. The premises, lightly-coloured and airy, are nevertheless attractive in a summery way, and there is more than enough imagination in Sally Clarke's menus to give substance to the fashionable veneer.

Her four-course dinners, which cost just £15, are excellent value and should provide ample choice over a week. The main courses on three evenings last week were respectively, corn-fed chicken with mustard sauce and fresh pasta, char-grilled Scotch rump steak, and fish, fresh from the market and served on bed of spinach. English cheeses and puddings, and such starters as quiche-louie, chilled orange and carrot soup, and marinated wild salmon with chili, should continue to draw the crowds.

Stan Hey

RESTAURANTS

Mr Underhill's, Stanham, near Southwold, Suffolk (0449 711206). Open: Tues-Sat 7.30-9pm (lunches and parties by arrangement).
Clarke's, 124 Kensington Church Street, London W8 (01-221 9225). Open: Mon-Fri 12.30-2pm and Mon-Sat 7-10pm (approx, depending on numbers).

OUT AND ABOUT

A walk on London's wild side

Today the Ramblers' Association celebrates its 50th anniversary, so what better moment to recommend walking as an enjoyable form of exercise. And where better to do it than London, which offers an amazing variety of accessible paths.

The 160-mile path commonly known as the Thames Walk begins in Putney. It follows the River Thames through seven counties to Gloucestershire. Walking difficult but the clear, 18-mile stretch from Putney to Hampton Court offers more changes of scene and heritage than an equivalent distance upstream, including two royal palaces and three riverside country mansions.

William the Conqueror, who built Windsor Castle on a bend in the river, also enclosed Windsor Great Park. The estate roads, mostly staked out under George III's personal supervision, are open only to horses and bicycles. This has turned the whole area into a walker's paradise where the Queen Mother's secluded royal lodge or the royal model staff village are beyond the reach of lazy tourists. Numerous paths are to be found in the vast, wooded Virginia Water, which was created in the eighteenth century to give work to the Duke of Cumberland's redundant army.

The Lee Valley Park in the north-east of London is less than 20 years old; it embraces the once-deserted land on each side of the River Lee, which now flows through peaceful water meadows. In 1665 the river

Leigh Hatts takes an historic tour around the highways and byways of the city's green belt

was the only route open to carry essential supplies into a city gripped by the Great Plague.

The parallel New River, dug in James I's reign, provided London with its only pure water supply. Both have waterside paths; the Lee's is a tow-path passing Rye House, scene of the 1683 Rye House Plot, and Waltham Abbey.

Waltham Abbey, in Essex, is the resting place of King Harold, killed in the battle of Hastings. Inside the Norman church the curial *Hark, the Herald Angels Sing* was first sung to the now-familiar Mendelssohn tune. A bus stops outside but it is possible to approach from the north after a walk across the meadows and round the monastic fish-ponds. The 20-mile-long path is remarkably well served by five stations on the Liverpool Street-Hertford line.

The countryside is also served by the Underground. The Metropolitan line, reaching into the Chilterns, is well known as one of the late Sir John Betjeman's favourites; the poet laureate also expressed a desire to become station master of Ongar at the far eastern end of the Central line in Essex. At North Weald station

(now open only during the rush hours) the countryside runs right up to the platform; passengers can use London Transport's only level crossing to take a fine footpath up into the wood and on to the Essex Way.

Between these two lovely stations, at Greensted-juxta-Ongar, ramblers can find the world's oldest log church, which dates back to 845 and was where the Tolpuddle Martyrs sought refuge from the prejudice of Dorset. On the way back to London the line passes through Epping where the Forest is known as "London's back garden".

The Piccadilly line also ends up in the green belt. Directly opposite Oakwood station is a path which leads past a pond and into a wood in the GLC's own 360-acre country park. Treni Park is maintained in as natural a state as possible, to the north, but still in London's only level stand on Enfield Chase and see only farmland owned by the GLC.

The loss of the railway from Highgate to Alexandra Palace has left the London borough of Haringey with a fine railway path now called the Parkway Walk which sweeps through N22, N10, N6, N8, N19 and N4 to make an eight-mile round walk served by the Northern and Victoria lines.

Leigh Hatts is the author of *Country Walks Around London* which gives details of more than 100 miles of paths in and around London (David & Charles, Newton Abbot, Devon, £6.95).

OUTINGS

SOUTH OF ENGLAND AGRICULTURAL SHOW: A pretty location. All classes of sheep, cattle, top class showjumping, heavy horse displays, pony club games, beagle packs, dog showjumping, parachuting, the Royal Navy window ladder and mast training display and the Band of the Royal Marines. The Showground, Ardingly, near Haywards Heath, West Sussex. Today 9am-7.30pm. Adult £4, child £1.

BORDERS COUNTRY FAIR: Annual event featuring several country pursuits, including trout fly casting. Also dog racing, helicopter and other aerial displays, craft and trade stalls and demonstrations, floral art stands, shooting competitions. Plus walks starting from the Visitor Centre at 2pm. Also a crèche throughout the day.

The Hinsel, Coldstream, today and tomorrow 10.30am-5pm. Adult £1.50, child under-15 free.

JUNE FLYING EVENING: Weather permitting, some of Shuttleworth Collection's oldest planes will take to the air this evening. Including a Blériot XI, Avro Triplane and Bristol Bodine. Space to picnic or there is a new restaurant. Old Warden Aerodrome, Biggleswade, Beds (076727 288). Tonight from 7pm-9pm. Car plus occupants £2, adult pedestrian £1.50, child £1.

THE PITCHFORK REBELLION CELEBRATIONS: Reenactment of the rebellion which ended 300 years ago at the bloody Battle of Sedgemoor. Hundreds of participants in period costume, parades, Morris dancers and pageants throughout today in Lyme Regis. Also starting today and continuing throughout the week, parades, pageants, a "Rebel march" and band performances and plenty of street entertainment a few miles away in Chard.

Lyme Regis, Dorset today. Chard, Somerset, today until June 18.

VINTAGE CAR RACE MEETING: Organized by the Vintage Sports Car Club, many races between classic pre-war sports racing cars such as Bugattis, Bentleys and even a 1914 Hummer. Today, practice from 9am-12pm, racing from 1pm-6.30pm. Tomorrow, a vintage bicycle race at 10.30am, concours d'elegance at 11.30am, racing from 4pm-5pm. Outon Park, Little Budworth, Tarporey, Cheshire. Today and tomorrow. Adult £3.50, child under 15 free.

GWR 150: For broad gauge enthusiasts, a small exhibition of books, manuscripts and pictures relating to this period of the Great Western Railway.

Science Museum, Imperial College Road, London SW7 (01-589 3456). Until Sept 30. Mon-Sat, 10am-5.30pm, admission free.

Judy Froshaug



Easy going: A 1929 London Transport poster

SATURDAY

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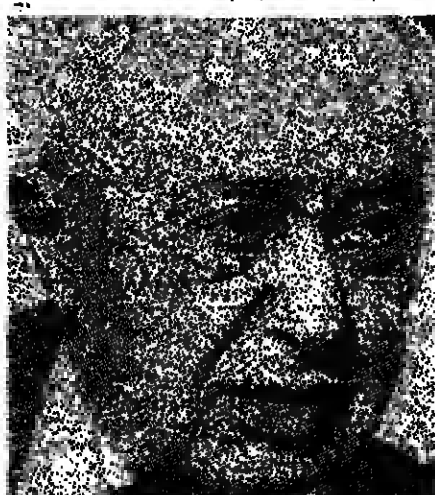
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THE WEEK AHEAD



CONCERTS

● **AT THE KEYS:** Mieczyslaw Horszowski, the Polish pianist who at the age of 93 must be one of the oldest soloists to grace a concert platform, is returning to the Aldeburgh Festival for a programme of Handel, Bach, Scarlatti, Chopin and Villa-Lobos. The Matings, Snape, Suffolk, tomorrow, 8pm (072885 3543).



RADIO

● **ON SAFARI:** Geraldine James, the battling Lady Maud of *Blot on the Landscape*, plays another redoubtable woman in *Explorers Extraordinary*. In 1882 Mary Kingsley, unmarried at 30, ventured into West Africa, surviving cannibals, crocodiles and a 15-foot plunge into a jungle trap. Radio 4, today, 3.30-4pm.



GALLERIES

● **GAD, SIR:** Colonel Blimp, David Low's saga of the Turkish bath, from the exhibition *English Caricature: 1620 to the Present Day*. All the barbed pens are here, from Hogarth, Gillray and Rowlandson to Gerald Scarle and Ralph Steadman. From Wednesday at the Victoria and Albert Museum (01-589 6371).



TELEVISION

● **MEMORY LANE:** Patrick Troughton, a versatile actor whose range has spanned *Dr Who* and Shakespeare, in *Long Term Memory*, a play by M. J. Read which opens BBC2's summer drama season. He plays a man who walked out on his family 21 years ago but now wants to see them again. Tuesday, 9.35-10.30pm.



FILMS

● **IN THE PINK:** Julie Walters in *She'll Be Wearing Pink Pyjamas*, her first film since *Educating Rita*. She is one of eight women running the gauntlet of rockfaces, nights in the open and aching feet on a Lake District survival course. From Friday at Classic Haymarket (01-839 1527) and Gate Bloomsbury (01-837 1177).



BOOKS

● **AMBLER'S TALES:** Eric Ambler, the author of such classic spy thrillers as *The Mask of Dimitrios* and *Journey into Fear*, has written his autobiography, *Here Lies* (Weidenfeld and Nicholson, £12.95). He reflects on his south London childhood, an early career in advertising and the frustrations of writing scripts for films.

Maestro who leads a double life

André Previn is a small man who watches you warily from beneath what remains of the last surviving Beatles haircut in show business. His voice is mid-Atlantic and his clothes are an unmistakable trans-national style. *Angels* - brown boundstooth jacket with clashing blue shirt and a blotchy rather than explicitly polka-dot maroon tie. The grandees of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra once quarrelled with his somewhat dodgy dress sense when he took to wearing a black tunic on the podium - but just for the moment, in London at least, he can wear what he likes.

For on June 16 the first André Previn Music Festival begins on London's South Bank with, among other events, a performance by Vladimir Ashkenazy of Previn's new Piano Concerto. Two weeks of the classics, jazz and Ravi Shankar follow, all centred on the man's taste, personality and pulling power. It is the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra's way of milking every possible publicity advantage out of the arrival of Previn as their new music director. He is, after all, the man who has made the orchestra famous, and who has been employed to embody a joke about the word "conductor" - the man whose name would probably be first on the popular list of maestros most people could remember.

But in the London music scene of today he almost seems too glamorous. The orchestras are all working under tighter than ever financial controls and life as a musician continues to be as grimly underpaid and overworked as ever. Previn invited one American player to come with him to London. Professionally he was thrilled, but the two thirds cut in salary meant he had to refuse.

"Londoo is still the world centre of music in terms of activity," explains Previn. "But you can't compare the lives of musicians here with those of players in Vienna, Boston or Berlin. Those people have contracts and

André Previn, the man with two orchestras and his own music festival, talks to Bryan Appleyard

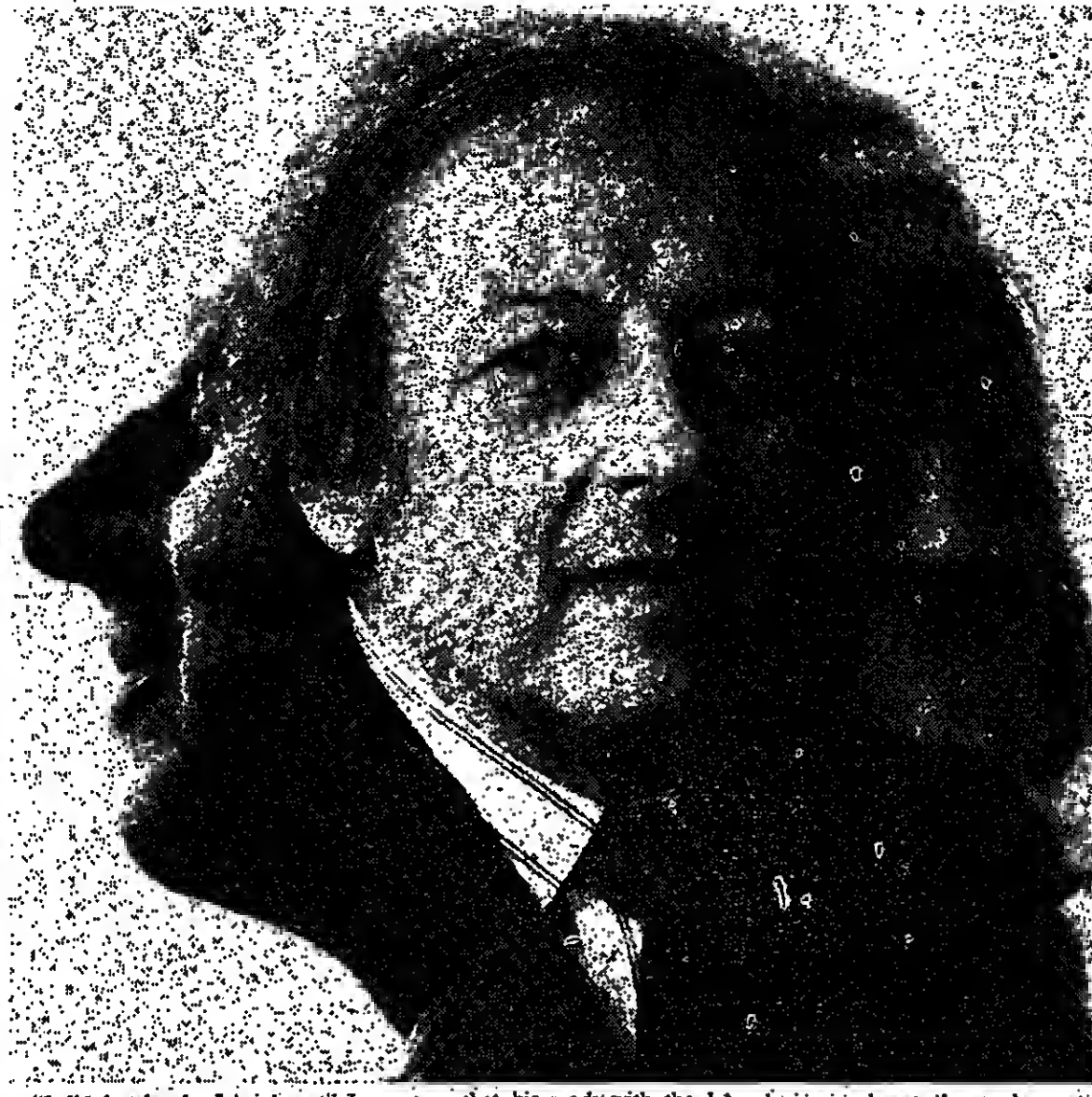
they are so well-paid that all they have to do with their lives is devote them to the orchestra. Here, just to make ends meet, they have to do films, jingles, teach and generally run around taking what they can get.

In general the playing of classical music in London is not the glittering, hand-kissing business it is in Europe or the United States. There are five orchestras for the one city as opposed to one in Pittsburgh or Los Angeles and competition is fierce. Seats are rarely sold by subscription so every ticket for every show has to be pushed as hard as possible. Empty seats are not earning money as they are in the American concert halls, thanks to the social cachet of buying season tickets.

But the advantage of this is a noticeable difference in the audience. Previn is fond of quoting one conductor who said that in the United States he felt he was providing a luxury - in London music feels like a necessity.

"Over here people are always coming up to me in the street and talking about music. They watch television programmes, they go to the concerts, they buy the records and they want to talk to you about it."

From October Previn will be able to enjoy the best of both worlds as he starts as music director of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, a task which will take 16 weeks of his year and which he is confident he can merge with the work for the RPO.



"I didn't take the LA job until I had made sure the season could be juxtaposed without short-changing either party - it can be done, although I realize I'll have to go to California the way other people go to Brighton."

Overall the two jobs represent a neat balance as the director to his distinctly unconventional career. His classical training was followed by 10 years of fascination with jazz - originally brought on by the sound of Art Tatum playing *Sweet Lorraine*. Work in Hollywood followed, a phase which he remembers with some affection, although he did

ensure that his work with the LA Philharmonic would not oblige him to come into contact with the film world. And finally he slipped into the big classical circuit with permanent posts at Houston, the London Symphony Orchestra and Pittsburgh as well as guest performances with just about every major orchestra in the world.

As for what effect Previn's return to a permanent post will have on the Londoo music scene, only time will tell. There is no doubt that years of relative poverty have begun to threaten its place in the international order. Most obviously, programmes

here are almost always desperately safe, in reaction to the potential dangers of risk-taking in the current climate. Previn, backed by the RPO, plans to change some of that.

"The safest repertoire in the world has not been proven to fill seats; so if you can't fill them anyway, you might as well not fill them by playing other music," he says.

Programmes will be loaded with premieres, just music that isn't always played to death.

"It is still possible to surprise an audience with a piece by Tippett. And I'm playing a new piece by Jacob Druckman, a remarkable

composer who doesn't write the kind of music your kids will whistle on the way to school. I'm not going to lay claim to an attitude like that of Pierre Boulez where I'll claim to educate the audience. I don't like all modern programmes. They should just make sense musically.

Previn will not, however, be asking the RPO to take on Stockhausen - "It's because of my own miserable shortcomings, I just don't get it. Others would do a better job than me."

So Londoo will be led gently by the hand both in the direction of so-far relatively little played French and American music and of the acceptably modern. "I just like instruments being played the way they were built - in other words scores that say break a beer bottle on the cello I intend not to do. Also when the instructions on the score are longer than the score, I tend not to be interested."

Despite the large jazz element in the first South Bank Festival, Previn is no longer involved in this form. He still takes a passionate interest in it, but has simply grown absolutely opposed to any artificial attempts to bring the two forms together.

"The greatest trumpeter in the jazz world is Dizzy Gillespie. He's a friend and an idol and he was kind enough to let me know that he had written some scores he wanted to play with a full orchestra. I said, 'no, because I don't think it works. If you want to hear Dizzy for what he's great at then you must hear him alone and if you want to hear a symphony orchestra at its best then you must hear them unencumbered by an environment that's alien to them.'"

So there will be Druckman, Knusson and Harbison for the leading edge of the classical side and Peterson, Fitzgerald and Westbrook for jazz. All carefully separated, though united under the banner of the André Previn Music Festival. He is not about to proclaim a revolution but then the RPO is in no position to back one and the Bankers' Trust Company, which is putting up £100,000 of sponsorship for the season, is hardly likely to favour one. Instead he is offering a genial mixture of show business and contained experimentation - a little test for the loyal but unadventurous Londoo audiences which, with the aid of Previn, they will probably pass.

ARTS DIARY

Speaking Bluntly

Christopher Wright, who threw top British and American art galleries into disarray last year by throwing doubt on the authenticity of their cherished exhibits, is on the warpath again. The ex-Courtauld art historian's new book, *Poussin: The Paintings* (Harlequin Books £45) is a wowed ooo-oo-oo-oo-oo-oo. But it is the culmination of a rearguard action he has fought for years against his old Courtauld tutor, Anthony Blunt. The authentication expert-turned-spy was not, it seems, above denying the validity of genuine Poussin works to increase the scarcity value of his own collection, nor of accepting - from a shady Parisian agent - forged or spurious paintings he could lucratively sell to leading galleries. Wright's book, he tells me, is an attempt to set the Poussin record straight. It may cost him some friends. The National Gallery, I understand, has suggested to its education department that Wright's lecture be "given a rest" and its book store refuses to stock his contentious volumes.

On the wing

Moves are afoot to transfer Charles Sturridge's production of *The Seagull* - currently at the Oxford Playhouse - to the West End. It is not known whether John Hurt or Samantha Eggar will wish to follow, but if Samantha Eggar declines then



Rodgrave and Richardson

Vanessa Redgrave is likely to replace her in the part of Arkadina. It would make a second mother-daughter appearance for Redgrave - having acted alongside her daughter Joely Richardson in the film *Whereby* she would this time be on stage with Joely's sister Natasha, who plays Nina.

Sitting duck

Literary sex writer Kathy Acker boasts that her apartment in New York's run-down Lower East Side has seen 13 murders. But where has she just chosen for her London home? Fashionable, up-market Barnes. "I wanted somewhere I could see the ducks on the river," she is telling friends.

● Nobel Prize winner William Golding has contributed the preface to David Bailey's book of photographs of the famous strikers. "I'm not sure I shall ever be the same again," he writes of the book. "It will keep you awake tonight and perhaps make you feel you will stay awake forever... for the love of God and man, be angry." Published jointly by Thames and Hudson and Faber in July, the book coincides with the Band Aid concert for Sudan and all involved in its publication have given their materials and services free.

Trouble at Pit

Edward Bond's *War Plays*, an epic trilogy lasting seven hours about a nuclear holocaust, are certainly going through the wars in their previews at the Barbican's Pit. The "technical difficulties" which caused the Royal Shakespeare Company to cancel the first two previews, included Ian McDiarmid injuring his ankle. Because of this mishap, an extra character now appears on stage - a mysterious slender figure in a track suit. While McDiarmid delivers his lines, this "runner" does all his fighting and lifting of bodies for him. He was certainly not created by Bond. A member of M15 perhaps?

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THE TIMES CHOICE

THEATRE

IN PREVIEW

GUYS AND DOLLS: Antonia Bird directs Richard Eyre's National Theatre production, first seen in 1982, of the show subtitled *A Musical Fable of Broadway*. Lulu as Miss Adelaide, Norman Rossington as Nathan Detroit, Clarke Peters as Sky Masterson.

Prince of Wales Theatre, Coventry Street, London W1 (01-930 8551). Previews Thurs and Fri at 7.30pm; June 15 at 3pm, June 16 at 7.30pm. Opens June 19 at 7pm. Then Mon-Sat at 7.30pm; matinees Thurs and Sat at 3pm.

OPENINGS

LOST IN EXILE: The relationship between F. Scott Fitzgerald and Ernest Hemingway, and the decline into madness of Zelda Fitzgerald, examined in a new play by C. Paul Ryan. Terry Adams directs Dennis



Creaghan and Kate Harper (above) and Jonathan Burn.

Bridge Lane Theatre, Bridge Lane, Battersea, London SW11 (01-228 8828). Opens Thurs at 8pm. Until July 6, Tues-Sat at 8pm.

CHILDREN OF A LESSER GOD: Mark Medoff's play, about a deaf girl and her relationship with a speech therapist, returns to London after a successful national tour, with Jean St Clair and Ron Alridge in the lead roles, directed by Gordon Davidson.

Sadler's Wells Theatre, Rosebery Avenue, London EC1 (01-278 9916). Opens Tues at 7.30pm. Until

July 6, Mon-Sat at 7.30pm; matinees Sat at 2.30pm.

THE GREAT CAPOTE: Frederick Davies as the author and friend of Truman Capote, in a one-man show based on his "life, writings, opinions and loves". Devised by Davies and director Norma Murphy-Martell, the show is due for a New York opening in September.

Fortune Theatre, Russell Street, London WC2 (01-836 2238). Tomorrow, June 16 and 23 at 7.30pm.

THE SEVENTH JOKE: The Joys, a four-man comedy, cabaret and music group, in their latest full-length show, which has been developed on tour. Their concern is with correcting the sexist balance of much humour and tending to satirize male attitudes.

Bloomsbury Theatre, 15 Gordon Street, London WC1 (01-367 9929). Opens Mon at 8pm.

SELECTED

OLD TIMES: Haymarket (01-930 9832). Mon-Sat at 7.30pm; matinees Wed at 3pm, Sat at 4.30pm.

A splendid revival of Harold Pinter's three-hander about shared nostalgia reawakening old rivalries. With Michael Gambon, Nicola Pagett, Liv Ullmann.

PRAVDA: Olivier (01-928 2252). Wed-Fri at 7.15pm; matinees Thurs at 2pm. In repertory.

David Hare and Howard Brenton's near-farce account of the rise of the ruthless colonial newspaper magnate provides Anthony Hopkins with a gem of a role.

OUT OF TOWN: BRISTOL: Old Vic Theatre Royal, King Street (0272 24388). Sweeney Todd, The Demon Barber of Fleet Street by Donald Cotton and Brian Cullen. Opens Wed at 7.15pm. Until June 22, Mon-Wed at 7.15pm, Thurs-Sat at 7.45pm; matinees Thurs (not June 13) at 3pm, Sat at 4pm.

Bristol Old Vic Theatre School annual student production is a new

comedy musical version of the Victorian melodrama, directed by Christopher Denys, musical director Neil Rhodes.

WINDSOR: Theatre Royal, Thames Street (075 35 3388). The Sloane Ranger Revue by Ned Stennin and Neil Shand, with music by Peter Greenwell and Steve Brown. Opens Tues at 8pm. Until June 23, Mon-Sat at 8pm; matinees Thurs (not June 13) at 2.30pm, Sat at 4.45pm.

Drawn heavily on the researches and pronouncements of Peter York and Ann Barr, this is no less than a Seven Ages of Sloane; Sherrin directs four Henrys, four Carolines and Kevin, who is a Grockle.

FILMS

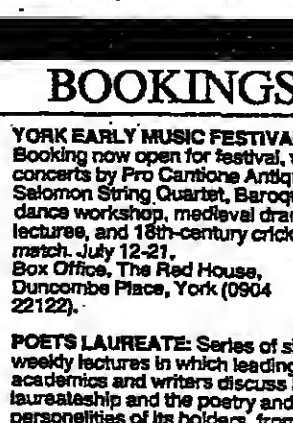
OPENINGS

THE GLENN MILLER STORY (U): Universal's sentimental biography of the famous bandleader, first released in 1954; rereleased with 16 extra minutes and a revamped



version of the original stereo soundtrack. With James Stewart (above) and June Allyson; directed by Anthony Mann. From Fri at the Screen on the Hill (01-435 3356).

A VIEW TO A KILL (PG): James Bond and a shapely American geologist fight the mad schemes of an industrialist bent on controlling the world's microchip industry. The 18th Bond adventure, with thrashbare ingredients and the usual glossy surface. Directed by



John Glen; with Roger Moore, Christopher Walken, Tanya Roberts. From Thurs at the Odeon, Leicester Square (01-930 8111).

SILVER CITY (15): The experiences of Polish immigrants in post-war Australia - is half-squandered on a routine love story. The first feature of director Sophie Turkiewicz, with Goea Dobrowolska, Ivay Kants and Anna Jemison. From Thurs at the Chelsea Cinema (01-351 3742). Screen on Baker Street (01-935 2772).

SELECTED

WITNESS (15): Plaza (01-437 1234). Detective Harrison Ford opens a boxer's nest of police corruption and hides out with the Amish religious community, where his key child witness lives. Excitingly directed by Peter Weir, an Australian making his first Hollywood film. With Kelly McGillis and Lukas Haas, as the child.

THE BREAKFAST CLUB (15): Plaza (01-437 1234). Five motley high school students

discover common bonds while spending Saturday in detention. Aggressively modest and well acted comedy from writer-director John Hughes, specialist in teenage topics. With Emilio Estevez, Anthony Michael Hall, Judd Nelson.

A LOVE IN GERMANY (15): Chelsea Cinema (01-351 3742), until Wed. Camden Plaza (01-485 2443). Andrzej Wajda's most recent film. Harne Schynys plays the married woman in love with a Polish POW.

PHOTOGRAPHY BRADFORD BOUNTY National Museum of Photography, Princess' View, Bradford, West Yorkshire (0274 727488). Daily Exhibitions on show until June 16 include *A Fair Day*, beautiful sensitive photographs by Martin Parr of life in the West of Ireland, and *Delia*, photographs and other exhibits surrounding the life and times of Frederick Delius. Also until June 23, *A Vision Exchanged*, amateur photography from the 1850s, and *Edward Steichen*, a wonderful selection of portraits originally taken for *Vogue* and the 1920s and '30s.

SPORTS PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR Shugborough Hall, Shugborough Estate, Milford, Staffs. (0883 881288) June 26-July 31, Tues-Fri 10.30am-5.30pm, Sat-Sun 2-5.30pm. I recently incorrectly listed this exhibition as being at the National Museum of Photography.

GALLERIES APENINGS OPENING CHINESE BRONZES: They may look ancient, but they are not. The one chance to see extraordinary reproductions of 32 bronzes from the Palace Museum at Peking, cast at the Morris Singer foundry in England - a case of East-West cooperation between the Chinese Ministry of Culture and Bowater. National Museum of Wales, Cathays Park Cardiff (0222 397851). From Fri until Sept 8.

BOOKINGS

YORK EARLY MUSIC FESTIVAL: Booking now open for festival, with concerts by Pro Cantione Antiqua, Salomon String Quartet, Baroque dance workshop, medieval cricket match. July 12-21. Box Office, The Red House, Duncombe Place, York (0904 22122).

POETS LAUREATE: Series of six weekly lectures in which leading academics and writers discuss the laureateship and the poetry and personalities of its holders, from John Dryden to Ted Hughes. Wed at 7.30pm, June 12-July 17. Enrolment, £12. Poets Laureate Course, Poetry Society, 21 Ears Court Square, London SW5 (01-973 2551).

LOUIS KENTNER: Two concerts to mark 80th birthday of the pianist, who will play Yehudi Menuhin and Dalcroze. Tickets available for a buffet reception with the artists at July 11 concert. Second concert, July 15. South Bank Concert Hall, London SE1 (01-928 3191, booking), (01-928 3002, information), (01-928 8500, credit card).

MADAM BUTTERFLY: Last performance this season by English National Opera, with Janice Cairns. Fri at 7.30pm. Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (01-836 3161).

RAINBOW BRIDGE: An exhibition of works inspired by Wagner's *Ring Cycle*, by Ellen Marwood, Bob Meeham, Pat Shaw, and Tony Wright. Ends today, 9.30am-5pm. North Peckham Exhibition Gallery, 800-5 Old Kent Road, London SE15 (01-639 1255).

GORDON OF KHARTOUM 1833-1885: Centenary exhibition commemorating the celebrated Victorian soldier. Ends tomorrow, Sat 10am-5pm. Sun 2-5pm. National Portrait Gallery, St Martin's Place, London WC2 (01-930 1552).

JOSEF KOUDELKA: Koudelka's mastery of photography of gypsies and other nomadic groups from the 1950s to 1980. Ends Tues, Tues-Sat 10am-8pm, Sun 5-8pm. Plymouth Arts Centre, 38 Loch Street, Plymouth (0752 550050).



galloping unicorns (above) and abstract talelans.

BRITISH ART SHOW: Southampton City Art Gallery, Civic Centre Southampton (0703-832277). Until July 7, Tues-Fri 10am-5pm, Sat 10am-4pm, Sun 2-5pm. Closed Mon.

Last stop for the Arts Council's caravanserai of work by 82 contemporary artists.

Theatre: Tony Patrick and Martin Cropper; Films: Geoff Brown; Galleries: Sarah Jane Checkland; Photography: Michael Young; Bookings: Anne Whitehouse